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9	UNITED STAT	ES DISTRICT COURT
10		TRICT OF CALIFORNIA
11		CISCO DIVISION
12		
13	IN RE: CATHODE RAY TUBE (CRT) ANTITRUST LITIGATION	Master File No. CV-07-5944-JST; No. CV-13-03234-JST
14		MDL No. 1917
15		CLASS ACTION
16	This Document Relates to:	INDIRECT PURCHASER PLAINTIFFS'
17	All Indirect Purchaser Actions	RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS TO JANUARY 28, 2016 REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF SPECIAL MASTER REMOTIONS (1) TO
18		OF SPECIAL MASTER RE MOTIONS: (1) TO APPROVE INDIRECT PURCHASER
19		PLAINTIFFS' SETTLEMENTS WITH THE PHILIPS, PANASONIC, HITACHI, TOSHIBA,
20		SAMSUNG SDI, TECHNICOLOR AND TECHNOLOGIES DISPLAYS AMERICAS
21		DEFENDANTS; AND (2) FOR AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES, REIMBURSEMENT OF LITIGATION EXPENSES, AND INCENTIVE
22		AWARDS TO CLASS REPRESENTATIVES
23		Hearing Date: March 15, 2016
24		Time: 2:00 p.m. Judge: Honorable Jon S. Tigar
25		Court: Courtroom 9, 19th Floor
26		
27		
28		

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Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs ("IPPs") respond to the objections to the Special Master's January 28, 2016 Report & Recommendation and request that they be overruled in their entirety.

INTRODUCTION

After eight years of litigation, IPPs have reached settlements resolving all federal and state-law claims brought by IPPs against the Settling Defendants. Under the proposed settlements, IPPs have recovered \$541,750,000. If approved, these settlements—along with two previously approved settlements —will result in a total recovery of \$576,750,000, as summarized below.

DEFENDANT	TOTAL SETTLEMENT
Philips	\$ 175,000,000
Panasonic	\$ 70,000,000
Hitachi	\$ 28,000,000
Toshiba	\$ 30,000,000
Samsung SDI	\$ 225,000,000
Thomson and TDA	\$ 13,750,000
Total of seven proposed settlements	\$ 541,750,000
Chunghwa	\$ 10,000,000
LG	\$ 25,000,000
Total of two previously approved settlements	\$ 35,000,000
Grand total of all settlements	\$ 576,750,000 ²

This is an extraordinary result for the class. Indeed, it is one of the largest recoveries ever on behalf of indirect purchaser plaintiffs. It is all cash. There are no coupons or vouchers and there will be no reversion or refund to any Defendant under any circumstances.

After obtaining preliminary approval of the seven settlements (the "Preliminary Approval Order") (Dkt. No. 3906), IPPs disseminated notice in accordance therewith. Only eleven objections to the settlements were filed, by 22 objectors. This number corresponds to *less than .0003 percent* of the number of class members that received direct mail notice—and a much smaller percentage of all the class members who received notice in one or more of the forms approved by the Court. Two

¹ The Court granted final approval to settlements with Chunghwa Picture Tubes Ltd. on March 22, 2012 (Dkt. No. 1105) and the LG Electronics Defendants on April 18, 2014 (Dkt. No. 2542). Those settlement funds have not yet been disbursed.

² The total of all Settlements plus interest is the "Settlement Fund."

objectors later withdrew their objections. The fact that these settlements drew such a miniscule number of objections speaks volumes. Further, only five requests for exclusion were received, and two of these were filed by direct action plaintiffs ("DAPs") with pending cases (Sears and Kmart).³

Special Master Quinn, appointed to assist the Court with settlement, attorneys' fees and related matters (*see* Dkt. No. 4077), has now issued a 77-page Report & Recommendation ("R&R"). (Dkt. No. 4351.) The Special Master found that the proposed settlements are fair, reasonable and adequate, and recommended their approval. He also recommended approval of the proposed allocation (the "Plan of Distribution") except for the allocation of the Chunghwa settlement proceeds. Lastly, he recommended fee and costs awards to IPP Counsel, as well as an award of incentive payments to selected class representatives (to which no one had objected).

Objectors have challenged the R&R, but the great majority of these objections already were raised with the Special Master, who carefully considered and overruled them for sound reasons explained at length.⁴ The smattering of objections raised for the first time in Objectors' recent filings lack merit. The court should overrule the objections and adopt the Special Master's R&R, subject to the IPPs' Limited Objections as stated in Dkt. No. 4400.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

I. PRE-HEARING PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE SPECIAL MASTER

The approval process before the Special Master was exhaustive, involving numerous motions, objections and detailed submissions on all relevant issues. For the Court's convenience, the IPPs' filings are summarized chronologically below.⁵

³ See Declaration of Joseph M. Fisher Reporting on Notice Program, ¶ 19, Ex. Y. (Dkt. No 4371.)

⁴ IPPs respond to the remaining seven sets of objectors following issuance of the Court's February 23, 2016 Order (Dkt. No. 4430): (1) Saik (Dkt. No. 4384); (2) Hull (Dkt. No. 4394); (3) Clifton (Dkt. No. 4401); (4) Cooper/Scarpulla (Dkt. No. 4437); (5) Bonsignore objectors (Dkt. No. 4440); (6) St. John (Dkt. No. 4439); and (7) Moore objectors (Dkt. No. 4436). Regarding Hull: The Court allowed Hull's objection even though he attempts to incorporate "all other objections" as well as his own original objection. Because the Court denied a similar attempt by objectors Finn/Fortman (Dkt. No. 4396), IPPs respond to Hull's original objection only. Finn/Fortman and Dan L. Williams & Co. (Dkt. Nos. 4397 and 4399) did not refile their objections to the R&R in compliance with this Court's February 23, 2016 Order. Thus, IPPs do not respond to their objections. Objectors Morgan (who objected alongside Hull) and Palmer have filed withdrawals of objection (Dkt. Nos. 4130, 4165, respectively). Objector Johnson (Dkt. No. 4128), and the California Attorney General ("CA AG"), who had filed a Statement of Interest (Dkt. No. 4118), have not objected to the R&R.

A. The Fee Motion (September 23, 2015)

On September 23, 2015, IPP Counsel moved for attorneys' fees, reimbursement of expenses, and incentive awards to class representatives (the "Fee Motion"). (Dkt. No. 4071.) This Motion, taken up by the Special Master, summarized in detail the eight-year history of this case and the work of class counsel. (*See id.* at 2-8.) A 50-page declaration by Lead Counsel lent support for this account. (*See* Dkt. Nos. 4071-1 ("Alioto Fee Decl. I") and 4071-2 to 4071-14 (exhibits thereto).)⁶

B. The Objections (October 8, 2015)

On October 8, 2015, objectors filed their objections to settlement approval, the Plan of Distribution, and the Fee Motion. Several objections were filed by lawyers in this case—Messrs. Cooper & Scarpulla, Mr. Bonsignore, and Ms. Moore (the "Insider Objectors"). Most of the other objections were filed by so-called "professional" class action objectors, many of whom have been sanctioned by courts for their conduct. (*See* Dkt. Nos. 4370 at 24-31 and 4370-2 (providing detailed background on objectors).)

C. The Final Approval Motion (November 20, 2015)

On November 20, 2015, IPPs moved for final approval of the settlements (the "Final Approval Motion"). (*See* Dkt. No. 4370.⁸) This Motion summarized the proposed settlements, the notice program, and the factors supporting settlement class certification and final approval of the agreements. It also proposed the "Plan of Distribution," allocating settlement funds recovered from all nine settlements (i.e., the seven proposed settlements, plus the previously-approved Chunghwa and LG settlements). Lastly, the Final Approval Motion refuted the objections and noted that objectors could have opted out of the settlements (*id.* at 23-49).

⁶ See also Dkt. Nos. 4073 (Compendium of Declarations) and 4073-1 to 4073-45 (exhibits thereto); and Dkt. Nos. 4071-15 ("Pearl Decl. I") and 4071-16 (exhibits thereto), all supporting the Fee Motion.

⁷ Messrs. Cooper and Scarpulla are actual objectors. Solely for ease of reference, IPPs refer to attorneys Bonsignore and Moore rather than their clients as the "objectors."

⁸ See also Dkt. Nos. 4370-1 ("Alioto Settl. Decl. II" with exhibits), 4370-2 (Additional Grawleski Decl. with exhibits), 4371 (Fisher Decl. reporting on notice, with exhibits), and 4372 (Fisher Decl. re: objections to notice, with exhibits), all supporting the Final Approval Motion. Documents lodged with the Special Master were not initially filed on the ECF system. After issuance of the R&R, the Special Master and the parties filed relevant documents on ECF.

D. IPP Fee Reply (November 20, 2015)

IPPs' reply addressing fees (the "Fee Reply," Dkt. No. 4373)⁹ responded to the fee-related objections and further demonstrated that the lodestar, hourly rates, and number of hours billed to the case are reasonable and appropriate. (*Id.* at 15-20.) The Reply noted that there were no objections to the amount of expenses or incentive awards. (*Id.* at 29.)

E. The November 30, 2015 Special Master's Order on Time/Expense Records

On November 30, 2015, pursuant to a motion to compel production of time and expense records, the Special Master ordered Lead Counsel to produce: (1) the daily time records of all IPP Counsel for an *in-camera* review (and a subset of these records to Objectors Cooper and Scarpulla); and (2) expense receipts and other backup for expenses. (Dkt. No. 4211.) Lead Counsel complied.

On December 15, 2015, this Court heard the motion by counsel for Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs in this MDL ("DPPs") for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses. At this hearing, the Court commented on certain expense submissions relating to travel, meals and lodging. IPP Lead Counsel was present at the hearing, and promptly thereafter began an audit of expenses incurred by IPP Counsel to ensure compliance with the Court's remarks. Lead Counsel submitted the audit report to the Special Master, resulting in the withdrawal of \$36,153.07 in IPP expenses.

F. Additional Objections (December 9 & 15, 2015)

On December 9, 2015, pursuant to the Special Master's Order Establishing Schedule (Dkt. No. 4185), Objectors filed reply briefs, which again challenged settlement approval, the Plan of Distribution, and the fee request. The CA AG also filed a "Supplemental Statement of Interest" that included a request to extend the claims filing deadline from December 7, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

On December 15, 2015, attorney Bonsignore lodged an untimely Joinder and Reply in Support of Objection. On December 18, 2015 the Special Master issued an Order Denying Leave to File Late Reply, refusing to consider that document. (Dkt. Nos. 4263 & 4274 (upholding denial).)

⁹ See also Dkt. Nos. 4373-1 ("Alioto Fee Decl. II" with exhibits), 4373-2 ("Pearl Decl. II" with exhibits), and 4373-3 (Compendium of Declarations with exhibits), all supporting the Fee Reply.

¹⁰ Lead Counsel requested expense backup from all IPP firms. Mr. Bonsignore withdrew his request for expenses (and fees) and never provided the requested information. (*See* Dkt. No. 4270.)

¹¹ All time and expense records, as well as the results of the audit, are available to the Court for *in camera* review.

G. IPP Reply (December 23, 2015)

IPPs obtained leave to respond to the December 9, 2015 replies (*see* Dkt. No. 4367 at 13 (Dec. 14, 2015 Special Master's Order)), because many of the replies raised new matters and arguments. IPPs filed an omnibus brief addressing the replies (the "IPP Reply"). (*See* Dkt. No. 4367 at 19.)¹² The Special Master denied Objectors' request to file sur-replies.

H. Proceedings Regarding the CA AG's Request for Extension of the Claims Period (December 29, 2015; January 4, 2016)

On December 29, 2015, IPPs responded to the CA AG's request for an extension of the claims filing deadline. (Dkt. No. 4281, Attachment 3.) The Special Master recommended granting the extension (Dkt. No. 4281), and the Court adopted the recommendation (Dkt. No. 4339).

II. THE JANUARY 5, 2016 HEARING

On January 5, 2016, the Special Master held a three-hour hearing. Counsel for IPPs, Defendants, and Objectors appeared and participated. (*See* Hr. Tr., Dkt. No. 4402-1, Ex. 1.) At the hearing, the Special Master requested additional submissions from the parties.

III. POST-HEARING SUBMISSIONS

In response to the Special Master's request, Lead Counsel submitted: (1) a January 11, 2016, letter regarding treble damages (Alioto Decl. re: Response ¶ 17, Ex. B); (2) a January 13, 2016 supplemental brief regarding the distribution of the Chunghwa settlement funds (*id.* ¶ 18, Ex. C); and (3) the January 15, 2016 Declaration of Joseph M. Fisher Reporting on Claims Submissions (Dkt. No. 4402-1 at 179-182). Objectors Cooper and Scarpulla provided letter briefs regarding the Chunghwa settlement, and certain citations, also requested by the Special Master.

On January 14, 2016 IPPs lodged with JAMS a Motion to Compel Documents and Testimony directed against the clients of attorneys Bonsignore, Moore, and Justi. On January 19, 2016, attorney Bonsignore submitted an untimely response on the Chunghwa issue.

On January 21, 2016, the Special Master issued a Corrected Report & Recommendation Re: Outstanding Motions, in which he refused to consider Bonsignore's belated response submitted January 19, 2016, and addressed various other discovery and evidentiary issues. (Dkt. No. 4329.)

¹² The IPP Reply also included: (1) Dkt. Nos. 4369-11 (Alioto Decl. in support of Reply, with exhibits); and (2) 4368 at 1 (Fisher Decl. Regarding Objections to Notice, with exhibits).

IV. THE R&R

On January 28, 2016, the Special Master issued his R&R. (Dkt. No. 4351.) He recommended approval of the settlements, concluding "that the terms of the Proposed Settlements are fair, reasonable and adequate" (*id*, at 28:24-26); that all class members were adequately represented by both Class Counsel and class representatives; and that "no conflict of interest [existed] requiring the creation of subclasses or separate counsel" (*id*. at 52-53). He further recommended (*id*. at 76-77) that the Court:

- Certify the settlement class;
- Find that the compensation to the class is fair, reasonable and adequate;
- Find that the Plan of Distribution is fair, reasonable and adequate to the Statewide Damage Class members;
- Find that the Plan of Distribution is fair, reasonable and adequate to the Nationwide Class members from non-repealer States, and to the Nationwide Class members from Massachusetts, Missouri and New Hampshire, even though they receive no monetary compensation; and
- Find that the notice given was reasonable and appropriate, and satisfied due process. With respect to the Fee Motion, the Special Master recommended (*id.* at 77) that the Court:
 - Award \$173,250,00, equal to 30% of the Settlement Fund; compute class counsel's lodestars at current billing rates and reduce all lodestars by 10% for presumed inefficiencies (resulting in an adjusted lodestar of \$81,067,569 and a 2.14 multiplier);
 - Approve reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$7,634,372.50; and
 - Approve the requested incentive awards to various class representatives.

The Special Master also rejected certain objections in no uncertain terms. *See*, *e.g.*, R&R at 33:17-25 (concluding that claims for equitable relief by class members in non-repealer states are "valueless"); 34:3-11 (referring to Cooper/Scarpulla's proposed injunctive relief as "transparently useless relief"); 36:13-17 (noting Cooper/Scarpulla's reliance on cases "that are plainly distinguishable and a misreading of a Special Master's report"); 37:14-16 (finding that "Class Counsel reasonably concluded that actively pursuing [an equitable relief claim in the face of *Illinois*

Brick (Illinois Brick Co. v. Illinois, 431 U.S. 720 (1977))] would have been quixotic."); 38:26-39:2 (finding that "Lead Counsel had no duty to assert frivolous, hypothetical claims foreclosed by existing law"; and that "while Objectors' arguments provide fascinating speculation for a law review article, they do not realistically inform the very practical decision in a class action which claims have merit."); 39:25-40:9 (concluding that Mr. Bonsignore and others could themselves "have initiated direct actions that could have been joined with the MDL" if they were dissatisfied); 49:14-50:4 (finding that the notice program was "fair, adequate and reasonable).

The *sole objection* sustained by the Special Master concerned the Plan of Distribution's proposed treatment of the Chunghwa settlement funds.

V. POST-R&R SUBMISSIONS

On January 30, 2016, IPPs filed an Omnibus Reply in support of their motion to compel, filed on January 14, 2016. The Special Master has not yet ruled on this matter.

On February 12, 2016, objectors filed oppositions to the R&R. On February 23, 2016, the Court ordered certain objections stricken. (Dkt. No. 4430.) Some objectors resubmitted objections. The Special Master issued a Supplemental R&R Re Chunghwa Allocation Issue (Dkt. No. 4445) on February 29, 2016.

ARGUMENT

I. THE COURT SHOULD OVERRULE THE OBJECTIONS TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON SETTLEMENT APPROVAL

Rule 23(e) "requires the district court to determine whether a proposed settlement is fundamentally fair, adequate and reasonable." *In re: Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) [Direct Purchaser] Antitrust Litig.*, No. 14-CV-2058 JST, 2015 WL 9266493, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 17, 2015) (citation and internal quotation marks omitted). Objectors bear the burden of proving their challenges to the reasonableness of a settlement. *See United States v. Oregon*, 913 F.2d 576, 581 (9th Cir.1990). ("In this circuit, we have usually imposed the burden on the party objecting to a class action settlement."); *In re LinkedIn User Privacy Litig.*, 309 F.R.D. 573, 583 (N.D. Cal. 2015) ("An objector to a proposed settlement agreement bears the burden of proving any assertions they raise challenging the reasonableness of a class action settlement.) Further, "the proper standard for approval of the proposed settlement is whether it is fair, reasonable, adequate, and free from

collusion—not whether the class members could have received a better deal in exchange for the release of their claims." *Id*.

The Final Approval Motion (Dkt. No. 4370) included a detailed discussion of the factors set forth in *Churchill Village LLC v. General Electric*, 361 F.3d 566 (9th Cir. 2004). ¹³ It also described the key settlement terms: (1) The settlements resolve all claims against Defendants stemming from an alleged conspiracy to fix prices for CRT Products indirectly purchased from Defendants (*see id.* at 3); (2) The Settlement Class consists of a Nationwide Class and four Indirect Purchaser State Classes (*id.* at 3-4); (3) IPPs obtain a total of \$541,750,000 in cash, along with cooperation provisions (*id.* at 5-6); and (4) IPPs agree to a global release by all class members of all claims they have brought, or could have brought, based on the conduct alleged in this litigation (*id.* at 6-7). Even though the settlements have met with overwhelming support from the class, Objectors challenge the nationwide release, adequacy of representation, treatment of class members in certain states (including Massachusetts, Missouri and New Hampshire), notice, and various other aspects of the settlements. These issues are discussed in turn below.

A. The Nationwide Release is Fair and Reasonable

The Plan of Distribution contemplates no recovery for class members in so-called "non-repealer" states, *i.e.*, states that follow the Supreme Court's *Illinois Brick* doctrine to bar any type of monetary recovery for indirect purchasers. Several objectors argue that the settlements should not have released claims in non-repealer states and/or that class members in those states should recover from the settlement funds despite the weakness of their claims. (*See*, *e.g*, Dkt No.4437 (Cooper/Scarpulla Obj.¹⁴); Dkt. No. 4436 (Moore Obj.); Dkt. No. 4401 (Clifton Obj.); Dkt. No. 4440 (Bonsignore Obj).) But the Special Master properly rejected these arguments for the simple reason that such claims are demonstrably meritless, rendering the treatment of non-repealer states fair and

¹³ These include: "(1) the strength of the plaintiffs' case; (2) the risk, expense, complexity, and likely duration of further litigation; (3) the risk of maintaining class action status throughout the trial; (4) the amount offered in settlement; (5) the extent of discovery completed and the stage of the proceedings; (6) the experience and views of counsel; (7) the presence of a governmental participant; and (8) the reaction of class members to the proposed settlement;" and lack of collusion among the settling parties. *Id.* at 575.

¹⁴ Cooper/Scarpulla cite to the ECF-generated page numbers at the top of the R&R instead of the actual page numbers of the R&R. Because this is not standard practice, and because no other objector does this, IPPs cite to the actual page numbers of the R&R.

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reasonable in all respects. (*See* R&R at 31-41.) *See also In re Omnivision Techs., Inc.*, 559 F. Supp. 2d 1036, 1045 (N.D. Cal. 2008) (Conti, J.) ("It is reasonable to allocate the settlement funds to class members based on the extent of their injuries or the strength of their claims on the merits."); *Booth v. Strategic Realty Trust, Inc.*, No. 13-cv-04921, 2015 WL 6002919, at *7 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 15, 2015) (Tigar, J.) (same).

1. Class Settlements Routinely Include a Nationwide Release of All Claims That Were or Could Have Been Brought in the Case—Including the Release of Meritless Claims For Which Class Members Receive No Compensation Under a Post-Settlement Plan of Allocation.

There is nothing unusual about a settlement that releases all claims that were or could have been brought by a nationwide class, including a subset of meritless claims. Release terms of this nature are standard and unobjectionable features of many settlement classes and comport with Rule 23's goal of facilitating global peace. *Class Plaintiffs v. City of Seattle*, 955 F.2d 1268, 1287 (9th Cir. 1992) (approving release of "not only those claims alleged in the complaint, but also a claim based on the identical factual predicate . . . even though the claim was not presented and might not have been presentable in the class action") (citation and internal quotation marks omitted); *Reyn's Pasta Bella, LLC v. Visa USA, Inc.*, 442 F.3d 741, 748 (9th Cir. 2006) (same); *Sullivan v. DB Investments, Inc.*, 667 F.3d 273, 310 (3d Cir. 2011) (en banc) (approving nationwide settlement structured "to achieve global peace by obtaining releases from all those who might wish to assert claims, meritorious or not.") (citation and internal quotation marks omitted). ¹⁵

Indeed, the Court approved nearly identical release and plan of allocation provisions *in this very case* in connection with the LG settlement, without objection from anyone—including the Insider Objectors or their clients. (*See* Dkt. No. 2542 (LG final approval order); R&R at 37 ("the LG settlement released without monetary compensation any equitable monetary relief claims for non-

well-settled that in order to achieve a comprehensive settlement . . . a court may permit the release of a claim based on the identical factual predicate as that underlying the claims in the settled class action even though the claim was not presented and might not have been presentable in the class action."); *In re Am. Int'l Grp., Inc. Secs. Litig.*, 689 F.3d 229, 243-44 (2d Cir. 2012) ("Defendants in class action suits are entitled to settle claims pending against them on a class-wide basis even if a court believes that those claims may be meritless" to achieve "global peace[.]").

¹⁵ See also 5 Alba Conte & Herbert Newberg, Newberg on Class Actions § 16:7 (4th ed. 2007) ("It is

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repealer state class members," which "strongly supports the appropriateness of the same ruling with respect to the Proposed Settlements").)

Nor does the proposed allocation of zero funds to non-repealer class members somehow lead to a failure of "consideration" for the settlements as a whole, as Objectors suggest. (See Cooper/Scarpulla Obj. at 2.) Settlements often result in no distribution for class members with meritless claims without raising any questions about settlement validity or consideration. See, e.g., In re Mego Financial Corp. Secs. Litig., 213 F.3d 454, 460-61 (9th Cir. 2000) (approving settlement that left "a large portion of the class without a recovery"); Omnivision, 559 F. Supp. 2d at 1045-46 (approving settlement providing recovery to just one of three groups of class members because they were the only ones with valid claims on the merits); Rieckborn v. Velti PLC, No. 13-cv-03889, 2015 WL 468329, at *8-10 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 3, 2015) (approving settlement and plan of distribution under which class members would recover based on relative strength of claims, with some receiving nothing); Nguyen v. Radient Pharm. Corp., No. SACV 11-00406, 2014 WL 1802293, at *7 (C.D. Cal. May 6, 2014) ("The Objector argues that any settlement that releases any claim without compensation is per se unreasonable, but the Objector's authority does not bear this out."); Maine State Ret. Sys. v. Countrywide Fin. Corp., No. 2:10-CV-00302 MRP, 2013 WL 6577020, at *17-18 (C.D. Cal. Dec. 5 2013) ("That a plan of allocation distributes proceeds based on the relative strength and weaknesses of a claim does not, itself, render a proposed settlement unfair.") (collecting cases).

The settlements here were not executed claim-by-claim or theory-by-theory, but instead secure a lump-sum recovery from each Defendant in exchange for nationwide peace—a perfectly enforceable (and standard) class action settlement contract. Indeed, even Objectors concede that the Court's analysis at this stage turns on the adequacy of the recovery for the class *as a whole*. (*See* Cooper/Scarpulla Obj. at 2 ("it is true that in a class action the adequacy of consideration is analyzed on the basis of an exchange between the defendants and the class as a whole").) By that measure, the settlements readily meet the standards of fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy given the extraordinary amount of the common fund secured for the class. (*See* R&R at 4 ("The compensation to the class is fair, reasonable and adequate.").)

 Because the settlement terms are reasonable, what remains is Objectors' argument that the proposed *Plan of Distribution* is unfair to class members in non-repealer states. In Objectors' view, the plan suggests that Lead Counsel either represented non-repealer claimants inadequately in the settlement process or acted unreasonably in excluding them from the distribution. But neither argument is correct. As the Special Master explained, the issue raises a straightforward question of common fund allocation in which "Lead Counsel made reasonable, rational, good-faith valuations of the strength of potential claims in non-repealer states based on governing law," supporting the treatment of non-repealer claims in all respects. (R&R at 41.) The alternative suggested by Objectors—essentially giving some portion of the money to class members with meritless claims—would have been unfair to the rest of the class, whose claims were clearly viable.

2. Nationwide Class Members Were Adequately Represented.

Although Objectors' "nationwide release" arguments reduce, in the end, to an allocation dispute concerning the relative merit of certain class member claims, Objectors' adequacy of representation assertions must be addressed up front. (*See* Dkt. No. 4436 (Moore Obj.); Dkt. No. 4401 (Clifton Obj.).)

First, adequacy of representation is not called into question merely because a post-settlement plan of allocation values certain meritless claims at zero. "All class settlements value some claims more highly than others, based on their perceived merits, and strike compromises based on probabilistic assessments . . . If these types of compromises automatically created subclasses that required separate representation, the class action procedure would become even more cumbersome than it already is, and would create even more transaction costs[.]" *Charron v. Wiener*, 731 F.3d 241, 253-54 (2d Cir. 2013); *see also Maine State Ret. Sys.*, 2013 WL 6577020, at *17 (rejecting adequacy of representation and subclass arguments and noting that "if every difference among class members 'required a new subclass, class counsel would need to confine settlement terms to the simplest imaginable or risk fragmenting the class beyond repair") (citation omitted).

Moreover, there is no question Lead Counsel represented all class members vigorously and adequately throughout the litigation—including during the settlement process, which involved protracted arm's length negotiations supervised by experienced, Court-appointed special masters

¹⁶ Numerous courts have approved settlements providing no recovery for a subset of the class with valueless claims. *See, e.g., Charron*, 731 F.3d at 253-54 (rejecting need for subclasses and separate representation); *Maine State Ret. Sys.*, 2013 WL 6577020, at *17 (rejecting similar adequacy of representation and subclass arguments).

(*i.e.*, retired Judge Walker) and mediators (retired Judge Smith). (R&R at 18-19.) There is "not a shred of evidence in the record suggesting the existence of collusion," *id.* at 28, and class/lawyer interests were squarely aligned throughout because Lead Counsel, like all class members, had every incentive to maximize the total common fund recovery for the class. The settlements, in short, were the product of vigorous, effective, and adequate representation. (*See* R&R at 18-19 ("objectors have failed to demonstrate inadequate representation or any conflict of interest"); *id.* at 53 (same); *id.* at 74 ("generally superb job done by IPP counsel in this case").)

The same is true for the Plan of Distribution. Lead Counsel's duty in this context is to develop a reasonable plan, consistent with the fiduciary obligation owed to *all* class members in terms of distributing funds fairly based on the relative strength of claims. *See, e.g., Omnivision*, 559 F. Supp. 2d at 1045 ("the plan must be fair, reasonable and adequate" in light of claim value); *Rieckborn*, 2015 WL 468329, at *8 ("Courts recognize that an allocation formula need only have a reasonable, rational basis, particularly if recommended by experienced and competent counsel.").

Rule 23 does not, however, typically require separate allocation counsel for different categories of class members, particularly where, as here, a subset of claims is demonstrably valueless. In that situation, it is appropriate for the Court to approve a plan of allocation based on Lead Counsel's recommendation and the Court's independent review. *See, e.g., In re Pet Food Products Liability Litig.*, 629 F.3d 333, 346-47 (3d Cir. 2010) ("varied relief among class members with differing claims in class settlements is not unusual"; it "do[es] not, without more demonstrate" intra-class conflicts or the need for subclasses; and such objections are "more appropriately addressed as a Rule 23(e) adequacy of allocation question, rather than [an] adequacy of representation question"); *In re Insurance Brokerage Antitrust Litig.*, 579 F.3d 241, 272 (3d Cir. 2009) (plan of allocation under which "relief varie[s] among the different groups of class members [does] not demonstrate . . . conflicting or antagonistic interests within the class" or adequacy of representation issues requiring separate counsel); ¹⁶ see also R&R at 53 ("the Special Master

concludes that Class Counsel and the class representatives all provided adequate representation, and there was no conflict of interest requiring the creation of subclasses or separate counsel").

For all of these reasons, the Special Master correctly concluded that Lead Counsel represented the entire class fairly and adequately—indeed, "superbly"—throughout the case, including for settlement and plan of distribution purposes. (R&R at 18-19, 53, 74.) In addition, as explained in detail below, Lead Counsel's valuation of the non-repealer claims was reasonable and supported by authority in all respects.¹⁷

3. Class Members in Non-Repealer States Have No Viable Claims For Any Type of Monetary Relief.

Objectors' nationwide release arguments turn, ultimately, on the fair valuation of claims in non-repealer states. If the non-repealer claims are reasonably viewed as meritless, the objections fall away. And these claims do indeed lack merit. As Lead Counsel has explained in exhaustive briefing before the Special Master, and as the Special Master explained in the R&R, there simply is no viable claim for monetary relief (including equitable monetary relief) for class members in non-repealer states. (*See* R&R at 31-39.)

Despite decades of law to the contrary, Objectors assert the existence of viable monetary claims in non-repealer states. According to Cooper/Scarpulla, for example, Section 16 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 26, allows indirect purchasers to pursue equitable monetary relief as a matter of federal law. But the text and structure of the antitrust statutes and literally a century of precedent—including controlling Ninth Circuit law—hold otherwise. Objectors do not cite *a single case* in which any court has allowed a non-government plaintiff to recover equitable monetary relief under the federal antitrust laws, and IPPs are aware of none. Objectors' disgorgement theory is thus groundless, and extensive antitrust authority (surveyed in detail below) underscores the reasonableness of valuing these claims at zero. (*See* R&R at 35-37 (describing Objectors' theory of equitable monetary recovery as meritless and "quixotic").)

¹⁷ Objector Saik's contention that the Settlements' fee provisions create a conflict of interest (Dkt. No. 4384 at 1-4) is addressed in IPPs' Final Approval Motion (Dkt. No. 4370) at 42.

a. Statutory Background

The starting point is the text and structure of the federal antitrust laws, which include comprehensive enforcement provisions. The federal government, for example, enjoys broad statutory authorization to pursue, *inter alia*, criminal actions (15 U.S.C. § 1), merger reviews (15 U.S.C. § 18a), and "proceedings in equity to prevent and restrain" violations (15 U.S.C. § 25). *See also* 15 U.S.C. § 21 (additional enforcement terms).

Private remedies also are governed by statute—two sections of the Clayton Act in particular. The first, Section 4, 15 U.S.C. § 15, creates a federal cause of action for treble damages, which the Supreme Court has limited to "direct purchasers" of price-fixed goods. *Illinois Brick*, 431 U.S. 720. The second is Section 16, 15 U.S.C. § 26, which provides in relevant part that:

Any person, firm, corporation, or association *shall be entitled to sue for and have injunctive relief*, in any court of the United States having jurisdiction over the parties, against threatened loss or damage by a violation of the antitrust laws, including sections 13, 14, 18, and 19 of this title, when and under the same conditions and principles as injunctive relief against threatened conduct that will cause loss or damage is granted by courts of equity, under the rules governing such proceedings, and upon the execution of proper bond against damages for an injunction improvidently granted and a showing that the danger of irreparable loss or damage is immediate, a preliminary injunction may issue.

15 U.S.C. § 26 (emphasis added).

b. Controlling Authority

The basic issue, as Objectors have framed it, is whether the authorization of *injunctive* relief in Section 16, *supra*, can be used by private plaintiffs to end-run the express statutory damage provision (Section 4, 15 U.S.C. § 15), as well as the Supreme Court's *Illinois Brick* doctrine, by enabling an indirect purchaser claim for equitable monetary relief.

The answer is no, as Ninth Circuit law expressly holds. *See In re Multidistrict Vehicle Air Pollution*, 538 F.2d 231, 234 (9th Cir. 1976) ("[Section] 16 limits the equitable remedies available under its terms to those against 'threatened loss of damage.' . . . Recovery for past losses is properly covered under [Section] 4; it comes under the head of 'damages.'"); *Coalition for ICANN Transparency Inc. v. VeriSign, Inc.*, 771 F. Supp. 2d 1195, 1202 (N.D. Cal. 2011) ("Such relief is unavailable under Section 16."); *see also In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litig.*, 787 F. Supp.

2d 1036, 1040 n.2 (N.D. Cal. 2011) (claims for disgorgement "would be barred" under federal law). In *Multidistrict Vehicle*, the court held that a group of plaintiffs including "counties, cities, and individuals" could not pursue any type of backward-looking equitable monetary relief under Section 16 because monetary recovery for antitrust violations "is properly covered under § 4," *i.e.*, the express Clayton Act damage remedy. 538 F.2d at 233-34. "Thus, whether payments which appellants seek for some of their citizens is 'equitable' or not is of no consequence because §16 does not allow the claimed relief for past loss." *Id.*; *see also id.* at 235 ("mak[ing] whole those who have been injured by the conduct of the violators [is a] function usually served by the §4 remedy of treble damages.").

Numerous authorities are in accord. *See, e.g., Fleitman v. Welsbach Street Lighting Co. of America*, 240 U.S. 27, 29 (1916) (Holmes, J.) (treble damage claim is exclusive private monetary remedy under antitrust laws because Section 16 "does not go farther in terms than to give an injunction to private persons against threatened loss"); *F. Hoffman-La Roche Ltd. v. Empagran S.A.*, 542 U.S. 155, 170 (2004) ("a Government plaintiff" has "broad" statutory authority to pursue equitable antitrust remedies but "[p]rivate plaintiffs, by way of contrast, are far less likely to be able to secure broad relief"); *Decorative Stone Co. v. Building Trades Council of Westchester County*, 23 F.2d 426, 427-428 (2d Cir. 1928) (Section 4 treble damage claim is exclusive monetary remedy for private plaintiffs).

c. Objectors' Authority Is Inapposite

Objectors' response is to all but ignore the controlling *Multidistrict Vehicle* decision in favor of citing a large number of cases in which *the government* has been allowed to pursue disgorgement under federal statutes such as the FTC Act. (*See* Cooper/Scarpulla Obj. at 3-4.) But that has little if anything to do with whether a private plaintiff—particularly an indirect purchaser—can end-run the Section 4 damage remedy expressly prescribed by Congress, not to mention *Illinois Brick*, by relying on an alternative statutory provision (Section 16) that, by its terms, speaks only of injunctions. The two cases cited at the outset of Objectors' argument on this issue¹⁸ say nothing about the availability

¹⁸ See Cooper/Scarpulla Obj. at 1, citing *Midwest Paper Prods. Co. v. Cont'l Group*, 596 F.32d 573, 594 (3d Cir. 1979), and *United States Gypsum Co. v. Indiana Gas Co.*, 350 F.3d 623, 627 (7th Cir. 2003).

of equitable *monetary* relief for private plaintiffs under Section 16. These cases merely stand for the general proposition that Section 16 permits injunctive relief, a point not in dispute.

IPPs are aware of no case in which any court has held that Section 16 authorizes an equitable monetary claim for non-government plaintiffs, and Objectors point to none. Indeed, if such claims were viable, experienced IPP class counsel nationwide (including Lead Counsel) would pursue that theory routinely, yielding scores of reported decisions embracing Objectors' argument. But that is not what happens, and no such authority exists, because the claim cannot be squared with the text, structure, or history of the antitrust laws. *Cf. Bankamerica Corp. v. U.S.*, 462 U.S. 122, 131 (1983) ("just as established practice may shed light on the extent of power conveyed by general statutory language, so the want of assertion of power by those who presumably would be alert to exercise it, is equally significant in determining whether such power was actually conferred") (citation and internal quotation marks omitted).

Objectors Cooper/Scarpulla put particular weight on *Porter v. Warner Holding Co.*, 328 U.S. 395 (1946), but that was yet another *government case* decided under a different statute (the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942) with different statutory terms. Moreover, while *Porter* held that the Act authorized both injunctive and equitable monetary remedies in a government case, the Court made clear that its view would be different for a private plaintiff. *See* 328 U.S. at 401-02 (explaining that a parallel damage provision established "the sole means whereby individuals may assert their private right to damages" whereas government remedies were more expansive).

The more relevant Supreme Court authority is *Meghrig v. KFC Western, Inc.*, 516 U.S. 479 (1996) and, of course, *Illinois Brick*. In *Meghrig*, the Court rejected a private plaintiff disgorgement claim under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, holding that statutory injunction provisions did *not* authorize an equitable monetary recovery for private plaintiffs, irrespective whether the claim was styled as one for "damages or equitable restitution." 516 U.S. at 484; *id.* at 487-88 ("where Congress has provided elaborate enforcement provisions for remedying the violation of a federal statute . . . it cannot be assumed that Congress intended to authorize by implication additional judicial remedies for private citizens suing under the statute" because "where a statute expressly provides a particular remedy or remedies, a court must be chary of reading others into it.")

(citations and internal quotation marks omitted). The same is true under the antitrust laws, which prescribe an "elaborate enforcement" regime under which private monetary recovery is governed by the treble damage provisions of Section 4, period.

Illinois Brick, moreover, should be the end of the matter. The point of Illinois Brick was to bar indirect purchaser monetary recovery categorically under federal law to avoid the "serious risk of multiple liability for defendants," 431 U.S. at 730, and the risk of "transform[ing] treble-damage actions into massive efforts to apportion the recovery among all potential plaintiffs." Id. at 737. That rule been settled law for decades. See, e.g., Kansas v. Utilicorp United, Inc., 497 U.S. 199, 216-17 (1990) ("The possibility of allowing an exception [to Illinois Brick], even in rather meritorious circumstances, would undermine the rule"; "we think it an unwarranted and counterproductive exercise to litigate a series of exceptions[.]"); In re ATM Fee Antitrust Litig., 686 F.3d 741, 748 (9th Cir. 2012) ("bright line rule") (citation omitted).

Accordingly, indirect purchasers cannot avoid *Illinois Brick* merely by pleading disgorgement theories under Section 16 rather than damage claims under Section 4. Section 16 does not authorize indirect purchaser monetary relief under any circumstances. *See Illinois Brick*, 431 U.S. at 731 ("As in *Hawaii v. Standard Oil Co. of Cal.*, 405 U.S. 251, 264 (1972), we are unwilling to open the door to duplicative recoveries under Section 4.").¹⁹

Finally, Objectors cite *TFT-LCD* and *DRAM* as cases in which private plaintiff disgorgement remedies were authorized by federal law (Cooper/Scarpulla Obj. at 4-5), but the courts in neither case went that far. In *TFT-LCD*, the court addressed a claim by the State of Oregon and relied on several *government* disgorgement proceedings to allow Oregon's equitable claims to survive a motion to dismiss. *See Oregon v. AU Optronics Corp.* (*In re TFT-LCD* (*Flat Panel*) *Antitrust Litig.*), MDL No. 1827, 2011 WL 2790179 (N.D. Cal. July 11, 2011). But when controlling Ninth Circuit law actually was presented to Judge Illston on this issue in the same MDL (in connection with a different motion), the court correctly held that disgorgement and restitution are "barred"

¹⁹ The rule is the same for equitable disgorgement-type claims under state law in non-repealer states. (*See* IPP Reply (Dkt. No. 4367 at 19) at 11-12.) The Special Master considered this issue and correctly explained that "overwhelming case law bar[s] state law claims for equitable relief that attempt to evade *Illinois Brick*," rendering pursuit of such state law claims "quixotic" at best. (R&R at 37.)

under federal law. *In re TFT-LCD*, 787 F. Supp. 2d 1036 at n.3. And, the decision of the *DRAM* special master "did not analyze" whether non-repealer claims for equitable monetary relief were valid on the merits; it held only that the *DRAM* plaintiffs' decision to allege such claims would not defeat predominance. (R&R at 37.) *See also In re DRAM Antitrust Litig.*, MDL No. 1486, Dkt. No. 2132, at ¶133 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 8, 2013) ("the relative merit of the claims asserted and to be settled by the proposed settlement classes plays no role in the settlement class certification analysis"). Neither *TFT-LCD* nor *DRAM* could have recognized a valid indirect purchaser disgorgement remedy under Section 16 without running afoul of the controlling authority described above. *In re Multidistrict Vehicle*, 538 F.2d at 234.

For all of these reasons, no consumer plaintiff monetary remedy exists under Section 16, meaning Lead Counsel properly—and in all events reasonably—viewed such claims as meritless for settlement and plan of distribution purposes.

4. The Nationwide Injunctive Relief Claims Lacked Value.

Objectors also argue that nationwide class members may have had viable claims for prospective injunctive relief, for example an injunction requiring "employee antitrust training and compliance with U.S. law." (Cooper/Scarpulla Obj. at 6.) This argument was fully briefed before the Special Master who determined that, given the facts of the case, the passage of time, and the dying nature of the CRT industry, the "unlikelihood of future violations makes an injunction basically worthless, and probably impossible to obtain." (R&R at 34 (collecting cases); *see also id.* at 35 (describing Objectors' employee education proposal as "transparently useless relief")); *United States v. Or. State Med. Soc'y*, 343 U.S. 326, 333-34 (1952) ("The sole function of an action for injunction is to forestall future violations . . . We agree with the trial court that conduct discontinued in 1941 does not warrant issuance of an injunction in 1949."). The fact that the CA AG has obtained stipulated injunctions from Defendants does not change this analysis. The Settlements' treatment of nationwide claims for injunctive relief was fair and reasonable in all respects.

Finally, Objector Moore asserts (at 14) that, because IPPs are unlikely to prevail on the merits of their claim for injunctive relief, there is no ongoing "case or controversy" for the nationwide class. "But that argument . . . confuses mootness with the merits." *Chafin v. Chafin*, 133

S.Ct. 1017, 1024 (2013). The fact that a particular claim faces doubtful "prospects of success" on the merits is "not pertinent" to whether a case or controversy exists for purposes of Article III. *Id.*That is the situation here: The nationwide claims for injunctive relief are weak on the merits, but are not moot. *See generally Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Environmental Servs., Inc.*, 528 U.S. 167, 189 (2000) ("a defendant's voluntary cessation of a challenged practice does not deprive a federal court of its power to determine the legality of the practice" and parties bear a "heavy burden" in seeking to establish lack of ongoing case or controversy).

5. All Class Members Had the Right to Opt Out.

Even if certain non-repealer class members wished to embark on a quixotic pursuit of federal disgorgement claims, or any other novel theory of monetary recovery, they had every opportunity to do so by opting out of the settlements. But the opt out rates are trivial—a total of five nationwide—further demonstrating that non-repealer claims lack viability. (*See* R&R at 41 ("Class members in these categories who are unsatisfied with the Proposed Settlements had the opportunity to opt out and pursue their own legal remedies. Courts routinely hold that the opt-out remedy is sufficient to protect class members who are unhappy with the negotiated class action settlement terms. *Klee v. Nissan N. Am., Inc.*, 2015 WL 4538426, at *8 (C.D. Cal. July 7, 2015).").)

B. Massachusetts, Missouri and New Hampshire Were Not Improperly Excluded.

Certain objectors challenge the Special Master's finding that Massachusetts, Missouri, and New Hampshire were fairly and reasonably omitted from the Indirect Purchaser State Classes, although those states in theory permit indirect purchasers to recover damages. (*See* Dkt. No. 4440 (Bonsignore Obj.) at 2; Dkt. No. 4436 (Moore Obj.) at 4.) As the Special Master accurately determined, damage claims from each of these states are not viable (and thus reasonably viewed as valueless) given prior rulings on Defendants' motions to dismiss, the lack of class representatives, and the expiration of the respective statutes of limitations. Thus, "[t]he objections to the settlement on this basis are without merit." (R&R at 39-41, 76 ¶ 5.)

1. Massachusetts

IPPs initially asserted a claim under the Massachusetts Consumer Protection Statute, Mass. Gen. Laws Ch. 93A, but it was dismissed with prejudice on procedural grounds. (*See* Dkt. No. 768.)

This ruling expressly precluded the possibility that any existing or previously named plaintiffs could file another suit on behalf of Massachusetts class members. (*Id.* at 13.) Consequently—and because no other Massachusetts class representatives were located—Massachusetts was thereafter omitted from IPPs' amended complaints. (*See* Dkt Nos. 827, 1526.)

Mr. Bonsignore and Ms. Moore now claim to have represented additional clients that potentially could have served as Massachusetts class representatives, but the facts are otherwise and the Special Master correctly rejected this argument. (*See* R&R at 39.) Moore never informed Lead Counsel that she had any such potential plaintiff. (*See* Alioto Settl. Decl. II, ¶ 38 (Dkt. No. 4370-1).) Bonsignore and his purported client, Mr. Gianasca, similarly failed to communicate with Lead Counsel, never responded to Lead Counsel's requests for information necessary for initial disclosures, and declined to complete the questionnaire designed to vet potential class representatives. (*Id.* at ¶ 37.) They even failed to provide Lead Counsel with basic information concerning Mr. Gianasca's claimed purchase of a CRT product. (*Id.*) As a result, Mr. Gianasca was not named in the Consolidated Amended Complaint (Dkt. No. 437).

As the Special Master determined, Lead Counsel "never refused to add a viable plaintiff to this case," and "never excluded a viable plaintiff." (R&R at 40 (quoting Alioto Settl. Decl. II, ¶ 28 (Dkt. No. 4370-1) and finding this "version of the facts is more credible").) Objectors' contrary claims regarding the presence of viable class representatives are false. (*See id.*) No credible evidence supports the factual assertions of Mr. Bonsignore. The documents he cites were previously stricken by the Special Master and are subject to another motion to strike being filed by IPPs in conjunction with this Response to the Objections.

Nor did the Special Master err in concluding that Lead Counsel had no duty to "to dredge up a plaintiff." (*See* R&R at 41, 76.) Indeed, it is common in indirect purchaser cases to exclude some repealer states from the litigation and/or from monetary recovery due to lack of class representatives or adverse pre-certification rulings. For example, in *LCD*, the 24 monetary relief states included Massachusetts and Missouri but excluded New Hampshire. *See In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litig.*, No. 07-md-01827-SI, 2013 WL 1365900, at *1, *4 (N.D. Cal. April 3, 2013) (listing states and approving plan of distribution that allowed only residents of those states to make a claim).

Moreover, even assuming that Bonsignore and/or Moore actually had viable Massachusetts plaintiffs, "they could themselves, within the almost two years remaining in the limitations period, have initiated direct actions that could have been joined with the MDL." (R&R at 39-40.) They did not do so. They now argue that they were somehow "powerless" to do so because they were not appointed lead counsel for IPPs. (*See* Bonsignore Obj, at 7; Moore Obj, at 9.) Their arguments ignore the plain language of Special Master Legge's ruling, as well as the simple fact that the Massachusetts claims were thereafter not within the scope of the consolidated class claims overseen by Lead Counsel. Indeed, as noted, Special Master Legge expressly stated that, although IPPs could neither amend nor re-file their Massachusetts allegations, "certainly no procedural dismissal of this nature should bar the filing of a truly new suit." (Dkt. No. 768 at 13.)

Bonsignore and Moore also wrongly contend that putative Massachusetts class members had no notice that those claims were no longer within the IPP class case. (R&R at 39; Moore Obj. at 4.) But this fact was made clear not only from docket entries, but also in several class notices. (*See* R&R at 39 ("Lead Counsel did provide adequate notification in the settlement notices that were sent for both the Chunghwa and LG settlements.").) As discussed above, by the time IPPs moved for approval of the Chunghwa Settlement in March 2011, the Massachusetts claim was not part of this case and Massachusetts purchasers were informed that they would not recover from the settlement. ²⁰ IPPs again notified purchasers in Massachusetts that they would not be receiving money from the LG Settlement, and further informed them that no Massachusetts class was certified as part of the litigated class certification motion. ²¹

²⁰ See Dkt. Nos. 1063-1 (published detailed notice), and 1063-2 (published summary notice). The Chunghwa Settlement Class was "defined by Plaintiffs' operative complaint at the time this Agreement is presented for preliminary approval." (Dkt. No. 884-1, p. 2.) The operative complaint in March 2011 was the Third Consolidated Amended Complaint (Dkt. No. 827), and it did not include a Massachusetts claim.

²¹ See Dkt. Nos. 2511 (published LG detailed notice), and 2512 (published LG summary notice). Moore baldly asserts that "the law requires" a separate notice informing Massachusetts purchasers their claims were dismissed, giving them a reason "to have filed their own case." (Moore Obj. at 9.) But Rule 23 expressly provides that notice need only be directed to class members for the dismissal of claims of "a certified class," and only when the dismissal is voluntary (e.g., pursuant to a settlement). See Fed. Rule Civ. P. 23(e). Thus, when claims are "dismissed on the merits or the dismissal is otherwise of an involuntary nature . . . , notice under Rule 23(e) is not required." Newberg on Class Actions § 24:107 (4th ed.).

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Between the public docket and the published notices, Massachusetts purchasers had notice that their potential damage claims were not encompassed within this case, with ample time to bring separate actions within the limitations period. But the statute of limitations has now run. "Since the Massachusetts claims are now barred by the applicable statute of limitations, no claims can now be added." (R&R at 40.) Objectors dispute that conclusion on the grounds that "the actions of Defendants were fraudulently concealed," and *American Pipe* [*American Pipe & Const. Co. v. Utah*, 414 U.S. 538 (1974)] class action tolling suspended the statutes of limitations. (*See* Bonsignore Obj. at 8; Moore Obj. at 10.) Fraudulent concealment, however, could not possibly toll the limitations period after the filing of the initial complaints and publicly-announced DOJ investigation, which in this case occurred in 2007—more than eight years ago. *See, e.g., Hexcel Corp. v. Ineos Polymers, Inc.*, 681 F.3d 1055, 1060 (9th Cir. 2012) (holding the doctrine of fraudulent concealment cannot toll accrual of cause of action where plaintiff could have reasonably known of its existence).

As for tolling under *American Pipe*, any such tolling ceased for Massachusetts claims as of the date those claims were dismissed in October 2010—more than five years ago—and the limitations period then resumed running. *See* 1 McLaughlin on Class Actions § 3:15 (12th ed.) ("Under *American Pipe*, the moment . . . the case is dismissed without a class being certified, the statute resumes running as to the previously asserted members of the class and they have whatever time remained to them in the limitations period when the purported class suit was filed within which to seek to intervene, or to file a separate individual action.") (citations omitted). In addition, the other state antitrust claims alleged by IPPs did not toll the statute of limitations for Massachusetts because *American Pipe* only tolls "identical causes of action." *See In re Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Antitrust Litig.*, 27 F. Supp. 3d 1015, 1021 (N.D. Cal. 2015) ("*American Pipe* tolling did not apply to a later-filed claim that was not identical to the earlier-filed class claims"). The Special Master correctly concluded that the statute of limitations expired, and that Massachusetts claims were not improperly excluded.

The applicable limitations period is four years. See Mass Gen. Laws. 260 § 5A.

2. Missouri

As Objectors concede, Missouri damage claims were never within the scope of this case, having never been asserted by IPPs. (*See* R&R at 40; Bonsignore Obj. at 6; Moore Obj. at 8.) This was because there was no Missouri plaintiff to represent a Missouri class, and because Special Master Legge ruled that each state-specific class must have a named plaintiff to proceed.²³ Thus, law of the case prevented Lead Counsel from asserting a Missouri claim. With no plaintiff, and no live Missouri claim, the limitations period ran. *See Boulds v. Chase Auto Finance Corporation*, 266 S.W. 847, 851 (Mo. App. 2008) (five-year limitations period). For the same reasons discussed above with respect to Massachusetts, the doctrines of fraudulent concealment and *American Pipe* class action tolling do not save Missouri (or New Hampshire) claims.

Bonsignore again claims that he had a plaintiff from Missouri, and that he presented this potential class representative to Lead Counsel in March 2012. (R&R at 40; Bonsignore Obj. at 6.) Lead Counsel has no record of this claimed communication and does not believe it to be authentic; and the Special Master rejected Bonsignore's assertion as "not credible" on the facts. (Alioto Settl. Decl. II., ¶ 40 (Dkt. No. 4370-1); R&R at 40-41.)²⁴ Moreover, if Mr. Bonsignore truly represented a viable Missouri class representative in 2012, nothing stopped him from filing a case on behalf of Missouri claimants, since Missouri claims were never included within the class claims in this case. (*See* R&R at 39-40.) But he did not do so, and Missouri claims are now long time-barred. They are properly viewed as valueless for Plan of Distribution purposes.

3. New Hampshire

As with Missouri claims, IPPs have never asserted a New Hampshire claim. There was no New Hampshire plaintiff to proceed on behalf of a class, and Lead Counsel was prohibited from

²³ Alioto Settl. Decl. II, ¶ 39 (Dkt. No. 4370-1); Dkt. No. 768 at 5-6; Dkt. No. 799 (Order adopting R&R). As with Massachusetts, Moore contends that Lead Counsel should have objected or appealed the ruling as it pertained to Missouri and New Hampshire, but she makes no effort to demonstrate that it was legally incorrect. (Moore Obj. at 6, 8.)

²⁴ Further, Lead Counsel's experience with Mr. Bonsignore demonstrated that his claims of representing class representatives were unreliable. At the beginning of this case, Mr. Bonsignore claimed to represent plaintiffs from Arizona, Massachusetts, Mississippi and Rhode Island. But when asked to provide basic information necessary for initial disclosures, and to complete a vetting questionnaire, Mr. Bonsignore did not respond. As a result, none of these individuals was included in the consolidated complaints. (Alioto Settl. Decl. II ¶ 41 (Dkt. No. 4370-1).)

asserting such a claim without a New Hampshire class representative.²⁵

Before the Special Master, Mr. Bonsignore sought to demonstrate that he had notified Lead Counsel of a viable New Hampshire class representative. His contention is again highly questionable. The documents presented by Bonsignore make "no showing of when the possible client bought a CRT product or that she had proof of purchase." (*See* R&R at 40-41; Dkt No. 4144-3.) Moreover, "the e-mails are dated March 2, 2012, by which time the three-year statute of limitations on the New Hampshire Consumer Protection Act (N.H. Rev. Stat. § 358-A:2) had run."²⁶ Thus, as with Massachusetts and Missouri claims, there are simply no viable (or valuable) claims for New Hampshire.

C. The Notice Program Comports With Due Process, Was More Than Adequate, and Was the Best Notice Practicable Under the Circumstances

The Special Master found that the notice program was "fair, adequate and reasonable" and recommended that *all* notice objections be overruled. (*See* R&R at 49-51.) He also found the notice program reached an acceptable percentage of class members and that a neutral notice expert was unnecessary. (*Id.* at 49.)

This recommendation is consistent with Rule 23(c)(2)(B), due process, and the Preliminary Approval Order approving the notice plan, which has now been fully implemented. (*See* Preliminary Approval Order (Dkt. No. 3906 at ¶¶ 11-13); Declaration of Joseph M. Fisher Reporting on the Class Notice Program ("Fisher Decl. II") (Dkt. No. 4371); *see generally* R&R at 46-51.)

 $^{^{25}}$ Dkt. No. 768 at 5-6; Dkt. No. 799 (Order adopting R&R); Alioto Settl. Decl. II, \P 42 (Dkt. No. 4370-1).

²⁶ (R&R at 41.) Despite Mr. Bonsignore's repeated attacks, the Special Master in no way erred or contravened his duties by failing to treat any of Mr. Bonsignore's purported facts as "conclusive," or in not allowing untimely supplemental submissions. (*See* Bonsignore Obj. at 6-7.)

The applicable standard with regard to the notice plan is evaluated at length in IPPs' Memorandum in Support of Final Approval. (Dkt. No. 4370 at 7-10.)

The Special Master thoroughly considered various objections with regard to the notice program, including but not limited to: (1) the age and income profile of recipients; (2) notice to foreign residents; (3) notice to non-English speakers; (4) the supposed need for televised notice; and (5) the terms of the notice provided to the nationwide class. (R&R at 46-48.) Objector Johnson and the CA AG have not objected to the R&R, which also addresses their concerns about the notice program. (*See* R&R at 47; Section VII.A.6.)

Using a combination of direct mailed and emailed notice, publication notice, digital notice or
Google, Facebook and other media, as well as other targeted outreach, the notice program reached an
estimated 83% of class members with an estimated frequency of 3.1 (See Fisher Decl. II ¶ 18(d)),
which is well-within the accepted range. See Judges' Class Action Notice and Claims Process
Checklist and Plain Language Guide, Federal Judicial Center (2010), at 3; Silber v. Mabon, 18 F.3d
1449, 1454 (9th Cir. 1994). Moreover, the reach and frequency of the notice to class members were
effectively greater than these numbers imply because the calculated numbers exclude several factors
that expanded the program's reach. For example, the calculated numbers ignore an e-mail campaign
arranged by Lead Counsel that resulted in the dissemination of 417,993 emails to <i>DRAM</i> claimants
notifying them of the CRT Settlement. (See Alioto Decl. re: Response, \P 4.) Further, the calculated
numbers do not include unpaid search results and unpaid exposures to the Settlement Website "such
as the hundreds of thousands of user-initiated web sessions at www.CRTclaims.com and the
extensive exposure afforded by news articles and featured (but unpaid) links from numerous third-
party websites to the Settlement Website." (Fisher Decl. II at ¶ 18(e).)

A small number of objectors have objected to the Special Master's treatment of the notice issues, with two filing specific objections and one other "re-urging" his original objections. ²⁹ Notably, the CA AG, who initially raised issues with the Special Master regarding the notice plan, has not objected to the R&R and has acknowledged that the notice plan met due process requirements. (R&R at 27:14-15.) All notice-related objections should be overruled.

1. The Reach of Notice Was Acceptable

Certain objectors continue to challenge the "reach" and mechanics of the notice program. (See Cooper/Scarpulla Obj. at 9-11); Bonsignore Obj. at 8-11).) Special Master Quinn properly rejected these arguments. (See R&R at 46-49.) See In re Google Referrer Header Privacy Litig., 87 F. Supp. 3d 1122, 1138 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (rejecting objections that "describe alternative ways that notice could have been provided to the class. It may be true that other methods of notice exist. But here, the court approved one specific plan that satisfied the standard" of Rule 23(c)(2)(B) such that

²⁹ See objections filed by Cooper/Scarpulla (Dkt. No. 4437); and Bonsignore (Dkt. No. 4440). See also "re-urged" objections filed by Hull (Dkt. No. 4394).

objectors' alternatives were "not required").

First, the Special Master rejected Cooper/Scarpulla's speculative assertion that the notice campaign did not reach 83% of class members. (*See* R&R at 49; *see also* Fisher Decl. II at ¶ 18(d) (Dkt. No. 4371); Fisher Decl. Re: Cooper/Scarpulla Obj. (Dkt. No. 4368 at 1-8).) In response, Objectors now shift gears to speculate about the claims rate, suggesting (erroneously) that the number of claims filed to date counsels against a finding of adequate notice. (*See*, *e.g.*, Cooper/Scarpulla at 10; Bonsignore Obj. at 9.)

These arguments are misplaced. To begin, the adequacy of class notice is not governed by *post hoc* analysis of claims rates. Claims rates are a function of numerous factors beyond the notice program, including the size of a consumer's expected recovery, the passage of time since the product was purchased, and many other case- and class-specific considerations. The simple fact is that many consumers never file claims in many cases—even after proper notice. But that hardly makes the notice itself defective. Furthermore, the claims rate here is actually quite strong. The number of claims received as of December 7, 2015 deadline was 109,709 timely claims with a total of 19.9 million CRT units claimed. (*See* Declaration of Joseph M. Fisher Reporting on Claims Submissions, at 180 ¶ 4(b) (Dkt. No. 4402-1).)

Objectors respond by noting that the *LCD* settlement administrator received 233,473 valid claims. (*See* Cooper/Scarpulla Obj. at 10.) But this figure is an apples-to-oranges comparison and, in any event, casts no doubt on the CRT notice plan. For example, Objectors fail to disclose that the *LCD* settlement fund continued accepting claims for eighteen months after the original Court-ordered claims deadline. *See In re TFT-LCD Antitrust Litig.*, No. 07-cv-10827, Dkt. No. 9217-2 at 2, Ex. A Claims Summary (N.D. Cal. 2012). Obviously a substantially longer claims period is likely to yield more claims. Moreover, the actual number of *units* claimed in *LCD* was only 9.6 million—far less than the 19.9 million CRT units claimed here. *Id.*, Dkt. No. 7572 at 2. The *LCD* claims process also started in 2012 for a class period of 1999-2006, meaning claimants were more likely to have retained the relevant products and/or purchase records, and were therefore more likely to file a claim. Here, in contrast, the products (CRT televisions and monitors) are largely obsolete and the start of the class period dates back more than 20 years. *LCD* was simply a different case, and the

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claims experience there has little relevance to the claims experience here—let alone to the adequacy of the CRT notice program. There is no basis for attributing the different claim rates to ineffective notice.

Objectors' reliance on Kaufman v. Am. Express Travel Related Servs., Inc., 283 F.R.D. 404, 408 (N.D. III. 2012) is equally unavailing. In *Kaufman*, the court reviewed a thin publication notice program consisting of only *one* weekday issue of *USA Today*, and an abysmally low response rate with claims of just over one percent of the \$4 million settlement fund. 283 F.R.D. at 405-406. Here, the claims are substantial and IPPs anticipate distributing all of the funds to claimants. (See Dkt. No. 4402-1 at 179-182).

2. The Digital Notice Campaign Was Fair and Reasonable

Objectors also complain that "digital notices" displayed on Google, Facebook and other websites were not a legitimate prong of the notice program. (See Cooper/Scarpulla, Dkt. No. 4437 at 9-10; Bonsignore Obj. at 18-19.) At the preliminary approval stage, however, this Court approved precisely the plan that was implemented, including the use of digital media. (See Decl. of Joseph M. Fisher Re: Notice Program at ¶ 24 (Dkt. No. 3863) ("[t]he combination of print media plus digital advertisements is expected to reach approximately 80% of adults aged 30+ who own TVs or computers with a household income of at least \$60,000 with an estimated frequency of 2 times.").) Digital outreach is a standard prong of consumer class notice programs, which is why it was used here.

Cooper/Scarpulla's objection is notably odd given that Mr. Scarpulla served as lead counsel in the LCD case in which the same types of digital banners were used. Moreover, such ads were included in the calculated reach percentage in LCD. Compare CRT banner ads attached to Fisher Decl. Re: Cooper/Scarpulla Objection (Dkt. No. 4368 at 6-8) with TFT-LCD Antitrust Litig., No. 07cv-1827, Dkt. No. 7158-1 (N.D. Cal. 2012) (describing notice plan and attaching banner ad examples in Exhibit 3 at pp.44-45).

For all of these reasons—and many others addressed at length before the Special Master the notice program was "fair, adequate and reasonable under the tenets of Rule 23" and the noticerelated objections should be overruled. (See R&R at 49.)

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3. A Neutral Notice Expert Is Unnecessary

The Special Master found Objectors' request to appoint a neutral notice expert "unnecessary in light of the persuasive evidence before him to conclude that the Notice Program that has been implemented is fair, adequate and reasonable under the tenets of Rule 23." (R&R at 49.) This conclusion should be adopted for the reasons stated in the R&R.

D. IPPs Complied With the Procedural Guidance for Class Action Settlements.

Objectors Cooper and Scarpulla argue that the Special Master erred by not requiring IPP Counsel to provide an express comparison of each class member's potential recovery had the case gone to trial with each class member's actual recovery under the final settlements. (*See* Cooper/Scarpulla Obj. at 14, citing "Procedural Guidance for Class Action Settlements," available at http://www.cand.uscourts.gov/ClassActionSettlementGuidance (the "Procedural Guidance").) Objectors also point to this Court's order requesting further information from the DPPs based on the guidelines. (*See* Dkt. No. 4194.)

But Objectors ignore that the Procedural Guidance is just that—guidance for evaluating whether a settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. *See* Procedural Guidance, Item 1-d. *See also Perkins v. LinkedIn Corp.*, No. 13-cv-04303-LHK, 2016 WL 613255, at *8, n. 8 (N.D. Cal. February 16, 2016) ("the Procedural Guidance does not constitute a legally binding interpretation of Rule 23."). Moreover, there can be no question that IPPs have introduced a massive record on all settlement-related issues—a record more than sufficient to inform the Court's analysis under Rule 23. Indeed, IPP Counsel informed the Court at the preliminary approval stage that (1) potential damages were approximately \$2.768 billion (*see* Dkt. No. 3861 at 14 n. 31); (2) the total settlement consideration was \$541.75 million (*id.* at 1, 9, 13); (3) that Defendants and their experts intended to show at trial that the conspiracy caused little if any damage to IPPs (*id.* at 14); and (4) that settlements funds would be allocated pursuant to the detailed plan of allocation (*id.* at 26-29). This information, plus other information presented in IPPs' voluminous filings, was more than enough for the Court to evaluate the settlements' adequacy. (*See* Dkt. No. 3906.)

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THE COURT SHOULD OVERRULE OBJECTIONS TO THE PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

Approval of a plan of allocation of settlement proceeds in a class action . . . is governed by the same standards of review applicable to approval of the settlement as a whole: the plan must be fair, reasonable and adequate." In re Omnivision, 559 F. Supp. 2d at 1045 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted); see also In re Citric Acid Antitrust Litig., 145 F. Supp. 2d 1152, 1154 (N.D. Cal. 2001). "It is reasonable to allocate the settlement funds to class members based on the extent of their injuries or the strength of their claims on the merits." In re Omnivision, 559 F. Supp. 2d at 1045.

In re: CRT Antitrust Litig., 2015 WL 9266493, at *7. See also Rieckborn, 2015 WL 468329, at *8 ("Courts recognize that an allocation formula need only have a reasonable, rational basis, particularly if recommended by experienced and competent counsel.").

The Plan of Distribution meets these standards. (See R&R at 29-41.) Qualified claimants will receive a pro-rata share of the Settlement Fund based on the number of valid claims filed, and the number and type of CRT Products each claimant purchased during the class period. (Id. at 29-31.) The Plan does not contemplate compensating Nationwide Class Members who are not members of one of the Indirect Purchaser State Classes, because, under the reasoned opinion of Lead Counsel, the equitable and damages claims being released by these purchasers have no value, and the proposed allocations will most fairly compensate the claimants. (*Id.* at 34-41.)

The objections focus on the various arguments addressed at length, *supra*, concerning the value of monetary claims held (in theory) by class members in non-repealer states, as well as Massachusetts, Missouri, and New Hampshire. For the reasons explained above, however, these claims are not viable. (See Section I. B, supra.) Accordingly, the fairest approach is to account in a reasonable way for both the strength of repealer state damage claims and the weakness of all other monetary claims, and to allocate the common fund accordingly. See, e.g., page 10, supra (collecting many cases approving this approach). The Plan of Distribution reflects "reasonable, rational, goodfaith valuations of the strength of potential claims," and warrants final approval. (R&R at 41.)

A secondary issue concerns the distribution of the Chunghwa settlement funds. (See R&R at 41-46.) The Special Master has issued a Supplemental R&R regarding the plan of distribution of the Chunghwa Net Settlement Fund. (See Dkt. No. 4455.) Pursuant to this Court's February 23, 2016 Order (Dkt. No. 4430), objections to this Supplemental R&R are to be filed separately and

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considered by the Court at the March 15, 2016 hearing. This issue does not bear on final approval of the pending settlements or the Plan of Distribution for non-Chunghwa funds.

THE COURT SHOULD REJECT ALL OBJECTIONS REGARDING FEES, III. **EXPENSES AND INCENTIVE AWARDS**

Α. **Background**

1. The Fee Motion

IPP Counsel sought fees in the amount of \$192,250,000, one-third (33.3%) of the Settlement Fund, representing a 2.3 multiplier—a sum within the acceptable range of awards in this Circuit and warranted by the exceptional results obtained for the Class, the complex nature of the case, and the enormous financial risks undertaken by IPP Counsel over the past eight years. (See Dkt. No. 4071 at 9-25.) A lodestar cross-check confirmed the reasonableness of the requested fee amount. (See id. at 25-27.) Lastly, the Fee Motion requested the reimbursement of IPP Counsel's expenses (see id. at 27-29) and incentive awards to compensate class representatives (see id. at 29-31).

The Fee Motion summarized IPP Counsel's work and accomplishments in the case (see id. at 1-2), including:

- successfully defeating two rounds of motions to dismiss that involved 11 separate motions and an array of complex issues;
- reviewing millions of pages of documents, many of which required translation;
- coordinating discovery and analysis of over 40 Defendants' and over 50 third parties' transactional data, including global CRT Product sales and cost data for hundreds of millions of transactions spanning a 13-year period;
- deposing witnesses in locations worldwide, often through interpreters;
- obtaining class certification after exhaustive proceedings involving complex economic evidence and expert testimony;
- opposing 11 summary judgment motions raising complex legal and factual issues including the Foreign Trade Antitrust Improvements Act of 1982, 15 U.S.C. § 6a ("FTAIA"), antitrust standing, and withdrawal from the conspiracy;
- preparing the case for trial, including witness preparation, exhibit and testimony designation, mock trial and demonstrative work, and extensive pre-trial briefing; and
- protracted settlement negotiations with multiple Defendants.

2. The Fee Reply

In their Fee Reply (Dkt. No. 4373), IPP Counsel responded to objections and explained that the requested one-third fee and 2.3 multiplier were reasonable and appropriate under Ninth Circuit law for a variety of case-specific reasons, including the results secured for the class in light of the risks. They also further demonstrated that the lodestar, hourly rates, and number of hours billed to the case were appropriate. (*Id.* at 15-20.) And, they noted that there were no objections to the amount of expenses or incentive awards. (*Id.* at 29.)

3. The R&R

Special Master Quinn first considered the methodologies available for assessing fees, opting for the percentage-of-the-fund method. He concluded that (i) "solid authority [establishes] that a 25% award is presumptively reasonable"; (ii) "many cases—including megafunds—award fees in the 25-33% range"; and (iii) "the 8-year duration of the case," "the extraordinary risk undertaken," and the "unarguably superb result of recovering for the indirect purchasers the second largest indirect purchaser price fixing settlement in history" warranted an award in excess of the 25% benchmark. (R&R at 69.) He further concluded that IPP Counsel's billing rates were reasonable (*id*. at 70) and their billing records "highly reliable and detailed." (*Id*. at 73.) He then recommended a 10% lodestar adjustment for inefficiencies, resulting in a 2.14 multiplier (*id*. at 74) and an award of 30% of the Settlement Fund, or \$173,025,000 (*id*. at 69).

The Special Master also reviewed the appropriateness of the requests for expenses and for incentive awards to class representatives, and recommended their approval. (*Id.* at 74-76.)

4. Objections to the R&R

Objectors challenge the recommended fee award on essentially the same grounds raised before the Special Master, including challenges to the percentage method, arguments for lower percentage fees in "mega fund" cases, certain lodestar disputes, arguments about the role of government and other proceedings, and various other contentions. Each of these arguments, however, was correctly rejected by Special Master Quinn.

B. The Special Master Properly Employed the Percentage-of-the-Fund Approach

Noting that "the Ninth Circuit has repeatedly approved beginning with a percentage analysis and cross-checking it against the lodestar with a multiplier if appropriate," the Special Master adopted that approach here. (*See* R&R at 54.) In particular, he concluded "that the proper approach to assessing the total attorneys' fee award in this case is to begin with the 9th Circuit benchmark of 25%, to determine whether there are grounds to adjust it upwards as IPP Counsel request, or downward based on Objectors' criticisms, and to cross-check the resulting percentage against the lodestar after adjusting it for any factors such as inefficiency." (*Id.* at 55.) The Special Master then performed a detailed analysis of the "*Kerr* factors" to calculate a reasonable fee, and appropriately gave the most weight to "[t]he most critical factor . . . the degree of success in achieving results for the class." (R&R at 56 (citing *Hensley v. Eckerhart*, 461 U.S. 424, 434-436 (1983)).)

Objectors contend the Special Master should have used the lodestar method and performed a more detailed review of time records.³¹ But the overwhelming weight of authority—in the Ninth Circuit and nationwide—supports the Special Master's approach. (*See* R&R at 54; Fee Motion at 10 (Dkt. No. 4071) (collecting cases); Fee Reply at 26-27 (Dkt. No. 4373) (same).)

Objectors rely on *In re High Tech Employees Antitrust Litig.*, No. 11-cv-2509, 2015 WL 5158730 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 2, 2015), but that case is distinguishable—and, indeed, in many respects supports the Special Master's recommended fee. The court in *High-Tech* was concerned that a percentage approach would have yielded an unreasonably high 4.97 multiplier, so the court used the lodestar method to award an overall multiplier of 2.5—which is higher than the Special Master awarded here. (*See* R&R at 68, citing *High Tech*, 2015 WL 5158730, at *8.). And, *High-Tech* did not remotely suggest that the percentage method would be improper in another case.

In the context of the lodestar cross-check, the Special Master's review of a subset of IPP Counsel's time records was entirely appropriate. *See generally Fox v. Vice*, 131 S.Ct. 2205, 2216 (2011) (in performing lodestar analyses, "courts need not, and indeed should not, become green-

³⁰ See Kerr v. Screen Extras Guild, Inc., 526 F.2d 67, 70 (9th Cir. 1975) (listing Kerr factors) which, as the Special Master noted, are the same as the factors applied in more recent Ninth Circuit cases, e.g., Vizcaino v.Microsoft Corp., 290 F.3d 1043, at 1048-49 (9th Cir. 2002), and In re Bluetooth Headset Prods. Liab. Litig., 654 F.3d 935, 942 (9th Cir. 2011). (See R&R at 55-56.)

³¹ See, e.g., Dkt. No. 4437 at 11 (Cooper/Scarpulla Obj.).

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eyeshade accountants" because the goal "is to do rough justice, not to achieve auditing perfection"); *In re Rite Aid Corp. Secs. Litig.*, 396 F.3d 294, 306-07 (3d Cir. 2005) ("The lodestar cross-check calculation need entail neither mathematical precision nor bean-counting. The district courts may rely on summaries submitted by the attorneys and need not review actual billing records.").

Finally, Cooper/Scarpulla's concern that the aggregate fee award is based on "unreasonable and uncompensable work" is baseless speculation, and was thoroughly rejected by the Special Master, as further demonstrated below. (See R&R at 60-66; 69-74; see also Section D, infra.)

C. The Special Master Properly Applied the Law on Mega-Fund Fee Awards

Objectors insist that the fee award be reduced because this is a "megafund" case. (*See* Dkt. No. 4384 (Saik Obj.) at 5-10; Dkt. No. 4394 (Hull) at 5-6; Dkt. No. 4439 (St. John) at 5.) But the Ninth Circuit has rejected "any hard rule that megafund cases are to be treated differently, although the size of the fund is one factor the court should consider." (R&R at 67-68 (citing *Vizcaino*, 290 F.3d at 1047).) *See also*, *e.g.*, *Newberg on Class Actions* § 15:80 (5th ed.) (criticizing megafund "sliding scale" approach as "lack[ing] rigor," as being inappropriate in "high fund cases [that] involve significant risks," and for "creat[ing] perverse incentives" for class counsel); *In re Rite Aid Corp. Secs. Litig.*, 396 F.3d at 302-03 ("there is no rule that a district court must apply a declining percentage reduction in every settlement involving a sizeable fund"). The Special Master properly concluded that "[t]he most effective way to control a percentage recovery in a megafund case is to compare it to the lodestar multiplier that it would generate." (R&R at 68 (citing cases rejecting multipliers of 10.38, 9.68, and 4.97); *see also* Fee Reply (Dkt. No. 4373) at 8 n.16 (distinguishing cases).)

Here, the 2.14 multiplier recommended by the Special Master is reasonable and falls squarely within acceptable norms. (*See Vizcaino*, 290 F.3d at 1051 & n.6 (discussing range of multipliers applied in common fund cases); *see also* Fee Reply (Dkt. No. 4373) at 3-9, and in particular *id.* at 7 n. 13 (listing "megafund" cases where courts awarded fees of 30% or more and/or multipliers in the 2-4 range where, as here, the record shows that class counsel bore substantial risks and delivered outstanding results).) Moreover, the Special Master carefully applied the *Kerr* factors and analyzed them in light of the facts and circumstances of this case. (*See* R&R at 55-69.)

Lastly, the Special Master's proposed 30% award is consistent with Judge Illston's award to indirect purchaser plaintiffs' counsel in *LCD*. *See In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litig.*, 2013 WL 1365900, at *8 & n.11 (30% fee to all counsel, and private counsel multiplier of 2.4 on current rates from \$1.08 billion fund). This case was litigated for two years longer than *LCD (see* R&R at 71) and presented additional obstacles (*see id.* at 57). Thus, an award of 30% (or more) is well-justified here. The objections should be overruled.

D. The Special Master Correctly Found IPP Counsel's Lodestar to Be Reasonable

As part of his lodestar cross-check, the Special Master considered IPP Counsel's time records, reviewing "a sample of about 50 months . . . from a range of about eight class counsel firms." (R&R at 71.) He also permitted two objectors to review the time records of Lead Counsel and three other firms for a 15-month period. (*See* Dkt. No. 4211.)

The Special Master analyzed and rejected objections regarding IPP Counsel's hourly rates (including those of contract attorneys), the hours expended, Lead Counsel's case management, the number of firms involved, and alleged improper billing practices. (*See* R&R at 60-66; 69-73.) He concluded that "class counsel's billing records appear highly reliable and detailed and the time spent and the rates charged were reasonable for a case of this complexity." (*Id.* at 73.) Nonetheless, in part to account for presumed inefficiencies in a case of this length and magnitude, the Special Master imposed an across-the-board 10% reduction to IPP Counsel's lodestar. (*Id.*)

Objectors nevertheless insist that IPP Counsel's rates are too high; Lead Counsel mismanaged the case; and IPP Counsel engaged in improper billing practices. These objections remain meritless for reasons discussed below.

1. The Special Master's Conclusion that IPP Counsel's Rates are Reasonable is Well-Supported

The Special Master found IPP Counsel's average hourly rate (after the 10% adjustment) of \$443 at current rates and \$412 at historic rates to be "reasonable and responsible." (R&R at 69-70.) Relying on the Declarations of Richard M. Pearl, he concluded that "Lead Counsel's rates were low," that very few lawyers' rates exceeded \$800 and none exceeded \$1000, and that "courts in the Northern District have repeatedly approved billing rates in the range seen in this case." (*Id.* at 70.)

Objectors St. John and Clifton challenge the Special Master's findings on the reasonableness of IPP Counsel's rates. (*See* Dkt. No. 4439 (St. John Obj.) at 6-7; Dkt. No. 4401 (Clifton Obj.) at 5-7.) They insist that IPP Counsel's rates are too high and that no multiplier is warranted. They are wrong.

First, they are wrong that IPP Counsel's rates already account for the risk of doing a major case on contingency. Instead, the hourly rates are consistent with those for lawyers doing this type of work on a *non-contingent* basis. *See* Pearl Decl. II (Dkt. No. 4373-2) ¶¶ 9-13, 23 (finding IPP Counsel's rates to be lower than defense counsel rates and concluding that IPP Counsel's rates are non-contingent rates). The rates, in other words, are reasonable for hourly work *and* should be enhanced by a multiplier to account for risk and payment delay. (*See* R&R at 66 ("Courts have repeatedly recognized that to induce attorneys to accept the risk of little or no recovery it is appropriate to award reasonable fees that often include a multiplier over their lodestar."); *Gutierrez v. Wells Fargo Bank N.A.*, No. C 07–05923 WHA, 2015 WL 2438274, at *7 (N.D. Cal. May 21, 2015) citing *Fischel v. Equitable Life Assur. Soc'y of U.S.*, 307 F.3d 997, 1008 (9th Cir. 2002) ("It would be unusual not to apply a risk multiplier when (1) the attorneys reasonably take a case with the expectation that they will receive a risk enhancement if they prevail, (2) their hourly rates do not reflect that risk, and (3) there is evidence that the case was indeed risky.").) Objectors do not and cannot make any showing to the contrary.

Second, the Special Master correctly rejected St. John's objection to contract attorney rates, noting that "the legal community now commonly uses contract attorneys. There is not the slightest justification to downgrade their billing rates or not apply a multiplier to them." (R&R at 73.) This finding has support from the American Bar Association and many federal and California courts. *See* Legal Ethics, Law. Deskbk. Prof. Resp. § 1.5-4(e) (2015-2016 ed.) ("if the contract lawyer is billed as just another lawyer whose work makes up the fee for the matter, the firm may bill the client any reasonable rate for the services just as it does for one of its associates"); Fee Reply (Dkt. No. 4373) at 21-22 (citing cases).³² Moreover, many of the contract attorneys used in this case

³² See also Pearl Decl. II (Dkt. No. 4373-2), ¶¶14-17 (citing cases and noting "virtually every law firm I know of bills private clients for contract attorneys at *market* rates -i.e., the rates charged for attorneys of comparable experience, and expertise for comparable work.").

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were fluent in foreign languages and "were essential for reviewing and selecting documents and providing backup translation at depositions." (R&R at 73.) See also Alioto Fee Decl. II (Dkt. No. 4373-1), ¶¶ 18-21, Ex. A.

Nor was there any deliberate "mislabeling" of contract attorneys as associates, as St. John suggests. (St. John Obj. at 2-3.) IPP Counsel merely used the same categorized chart for presenting their time as was used and approved in the *LCD* case. (See R&R at 72; Dkt. No. 4373-1, ¶ 24.) There was no label for contract attorney, thus "associate" was the most accurate descriptor available. Moreover, given that these attorneys performed associate-level work, and that the law clearly supports billing contract attorneys as associates, there is simply no need to have a separate category. St. John's mis-labeling argument—like many of his other arguments—is a non-issue. His claims regarding the adequacy of the record before the Special Master are addressed in Subsection 4, infra.

2. The Special Master Correctly Concluded that Lead Counsel's Case Management Decisions Did Not Lead to Excess Billing

Objectors Cooper and Scarpulla argue that the Special Master should have made more substantial cuts to IPP Counsel's lodestar, asserting that the Special Master's R&R "largely agrees with" their objections regarding the trial team, the CA AG, and alleged improper billing practices. (See Dkt. No. 4437 at 11.)

This assertion is false. The Special Master reviewed the record and extensive billing backup, and rejected Cooper/Scarpulla's objections to Lead Counsel's case management. He found:

- "substantial evidence . . . that Mr. Alioto managed the case effectively." (R&R at 61);
- "the prosecution of the case was divided in a sensible way among class counsel firms" (citing several examples). (Id.);
- "[a]ccording to his co-counsel, Lead Counsel was superb at coordinating the class effort so that the team remained united in its objectives, and avoided squabbling over strategy, finances, personalities and the like." (*Id.*);
- "the ability to lead a cohesive and collaborative team is the single most important attribute of a Lead Counsel in a huge MDL litigation," and "the evidence is overwhelming that Lead Counsel pulled this off." (Id. at 62);
- "the case was managed efficiently and cost-effectively." (*Id.* at 66);

- the "management of attorney time compares favorably with the division of labor in *LCD* based on the Special Master's involvement in that case." (*Id.* at 72); and
- that IPP Counsel did a "generally superb job . . . in this case." (*Id.* at 74.)

Objectors provide no evidence to refute these findings. Mr. Bonsignore's claims regarding Lead Counsel's billing practices and management of the case likewise lack merit. (*See* Dkt. No. 4440 at 11-12.) The objections should be rejected.

a. The Trial Team

Despite being given access to the trial team's billing records, Cooper/Scarpulla have been unable to articulate *any* specific objections to support their claims of duplicative and excess billing. (*See, e.g.,* Dkt. No. 4363 at 33.) Regardless, the Special Master reviewed the trial team's billing records and refuted Cooper/Scarpulla's claims. He found that the billing records "do not exhibit undue waste or unproductive time." (R&R at 63.) In fact, he found the staffing of one firm was "as efficient as legal staffing gets," and for another, "[v]ery lean staffing." (*Id.* at 63-64.) The Special Master also gave specific examples of the work done and the rates charged by each of the three firms—rates that are very reasonable for such experienced and skilled counsel. (*See id.* at 63-64.) Ultimately, "[g]iven the added focus, intensity and recent trial experience they brought to the potential trial, the Special Master concludes that Mr. Alioto's 'reasoned judgment' [in including the trial team] was appropriate." (*Id.* at 64.)

Cooper/Scarpulla have no response to these findings. Their claim that the Special Master found evidence of "unnecessary duplication of effort" (Dkt. No. 4437 at 12) mischaracterizes the R&R and cannot be squared with the Special Master's conclusions. (*See, e.g., id.* at 72 ("The billing entries here showed that for the most part the case was staffed in a reasonably 'lean and mean' manner. For most firms, 75% or more of the work was performed by 2-3 lawyers consistently over the eight years. . . . *Duplication of efforts was thus minimized*.") (emphasis added).) Their baseless objection to the trial team must be rejected.

b. Relationship with California Attorney General

Objectors Cooper/Scarpulla continue to assert that Lead Counsel created "unnecessary conflict" and had an "unusually contentious" relationship with the CA AG. (*See* Dkt. No. 4437 at

13.) But the Special Master rejected these claims. First, he found that the time Lead Counsel spent litigating the Philips/CA AG settlement was valuable to the class in several important respects. (*See* R&R at 64-65.) Objectors provide no evidence to refute the Special Master's findings, which—as they well know—are supported by the evidence. (*See* Alioto Decl. re: Response, ¶¶ 6-12 (describing IPPs' relationship with the CA AG); *see also* accompanying Declaration of Lauren C. Capurro in support of Request for Judicial Notice, Ex. A, (California Court of Appeal Order concluding that IPPs would be "potentially bound by the judgment [approving the Philips/CA AG settlement] under the doctrine of res judicata."). Thus, it was essential for Lead Counsel to intervene to insure that IPPs would not be bound by the judgment. Second, the Special Master has elsewhere observed that "coordination in this case between the Attorney General and the IPPs has been excellent." (Dkt. No. 4281 at 3.) No reduction in IPP Counsel's fee is warranted based on the relationship with the CA AG.

3. IPP Counsel's Billing Practices Were Proper

Cooper/Scarpulla contend that the R&R "confirms the existence of questionable billing practices" (Dkt. No. 4437 at 12), and that the Special Master found "excess billing," "problematic record-keeping practices," and "dubious staffing decisions." (*Id.* at 11.) These statements are demonstrably false. In fact, the Special Master categorically rejected Cooper/Scarpulla's and Bonsignore's unsupported allegations of improper billing practices:

- "The Special Master finds that class counsel's billing records appear highly reliable and detailed and that the time spent and the rates charged were reasonable for case of this complexity." (R&R at 73);
- "[T]he Special Master has no reason to believe there was any widespread padding of time or failure to keep contemporaneous records" (*id.* at 71);
- Lead Counsel's "daily billing entries, albeit handwritten, give every impression of having been made contemporaneously") (*id.*);
- "[T]he billing entries showed that for the most part the case was staffed in a reasonably 'lean and mean' manner" (*id.* at 72).

While the Special Master did find that the billing records contained entries for "in-house

multi-lawyer conferences," which he believed Lead Counsel had instructed lawyers to exclude,³³ he concluded that "it is simply unreasonable to expect a case of this nature to be litigated for eight years without conferences amongst counsel, and there is no reason to think such conferences did not benefit the class." (R&R at 72.)³⁴

Cooper/Scarpulla and Bonsignore also object to the Special Master's findings regarding block-billing and billing in quarter-hour increments. (*See* Dkt. Nos. 4437 at 12; 4440 at 11-12.) But they cannot distinguish *O'Bannon v. Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Ass'n*, Case No. 09–cv–03329–CW (NC), 2015 WL 4274370, at *6-7 (N.D. Cal. July 13, 2015) (refusing to reduce fees because of block billing). Like *O'Bannon*, the Special Master found class counsel's billing records to be "highly reliable and detailed and that the time spent . . . [was] reasonable for a case of this complexity." (R&R at 73; *see also Found. v. Office of Dir. of Nat. Intelligence*, No. C0705278 SI, 2008 WL 2331959, at *6 (N.D. Cal. June 4, 2008) (refusing to reduce fee award because "there is no evidence that plaintiff's use of quarter-hour increments posed a threat of over-billing").) Further, they concede the Special Master found that block-billing did not occur "to any egregious extent." (Cooper/Scarpulla Obj. at 25, citing R&R at 73.)

4. The Record Before the Special Master Was Sufficient

According to objector St. John, the Special Master erred because IPP Counsel supposedly failed to make a *prima facie* case for a significant portion of the fee request. (St. John Obj. at 1-2.). This contention is wrong on the law and the facts.

To inform fee awards, the Local Rules simply require a "brief description of relevant qualifications and experience and a statement of the customary hourly charges of each such person *or* of comparable prevailing hourly rates *or* other indication of value of the services." Civ. L.R. 54-5(b) (emphasis added). The evidentiary record before the Special Master meets this standard.

³³ Lead Counsel never instructed IPP Counsel to exclude *all* "in-house multi-lawyer conferences." Some such conferences were excluded by the Audit Committee during the audit of IPP Counsel's time, but only if they were judged to be "internal case management" conferences, as opposed to inhouse conferences about active assignments in the case. (*See* Alioto Decl. re: Response, \P 5.)

³⁴ Bonsignore complains that the Special Master dismissed his declaration regarding Lead Counsel's time keeping practices as "unsupported hearsay," and that this was improper because evidence rules do not apply at a fairness hearing. (*See* Dkt. No. 4440 at 11.) But the Special Master also reviewed Lead Counsel's actual time records and found they "give every impression of having been made contemporaneously." (R&R at 71.)

Every IPP firm duly submitted, at a minimum, a detailed firm résumé describing the firm's relevant antitrust experience. Most firms also submitted the résumés of at least their name partners. These name partners supervised the work of all counsel within their firms. Lead Counsel provided another layer of supervision. This ensured that skilled counsel were performing the necessary tasks at all times.

Lead Counsel also submitted résumés of over a hundred attorneys, whose time comprised the vast majority of the total lodestar. The record contains 45 declarations with hundreds of charts disclosing the tasks performed and hours billed per attorney by year. (*See* Dkt. No. 4073.) Lead Counsel also submitted two Declarations of Richard Pearl that provided the requisite information on the "comparable prevailing hourly rates." (*See* Dkt. Nos. 4071-15 and 4373-2.) With respect to the small number of attorneys whose résumés were not submitted initially, Lead Counsel and Lovell Stewart submitted supplemental declarations on November 20, 2015, and provided résumés for all attorneys for whose work they seek payment. (*See* Dkt. Nos. 4373-1 and 4373-3, Ex. J.)

St. John argues that the Special Master's consideration of these "tardy resumes" was error under *In re Mercury Interactive Corp. Secs. Litig.*, 618 F.3d 988 (9th Cir. 2010). (*See* Obj. at 3). The issue there was whether the "district court erred in setting the objection deadline for class members on a date before the deadline for lead counsel to file their fee motion." *Id.* at 993. The court held that a notice procedure is inadequate if "by the time [class members] were served with the motion, the time within which they were required to file their objections had already expired." *Id.* That is not the case here. IPP Counsel filed their fee motion long before the deadline for objections, supported by a 50-page declaration from Lead Counsel; a declaration from an attorney fee expert; and 45 declarations from each of the individual IPP firms. (*See* Dkt. Nos. 4071 and 4073.)

In sum, St. John's insistence on résumés for all attorneys who ever worked on the case, no matter how briefly, is unduly rigid in light of the Local Rule's flexibility on the evidence required to establish the value of legal services. The record is more than sufficient for the Court to adopt the Special Master's fee award recommendation. Finally, although not required, Lead Counsel has collected supplemental declarations containing background information for all attorneys who worked on this case. These supplemental declarations will be provided at the Court's request.

E. The Special Master Properly Concluded that the Settlements are Attributable to the Efforts of IPP Counsel and Not Government Action

Objectors St. John and Clifton take the position that the large settlements are not attributable to the work of IPP Counsel, but rather to the amnesty application of Chunghwa Picture Tubes, Ltd. ("Chunghwa") and the cooperation obtained from IPPs' settlement with Chunghwa; the Department of Justice's ("DOJ") criminal investigation and the guilty plea by Samsung SDI Co., Ltd. ("Samsung"); the European Commission's ("EC") Decision finding that several defendants had violated European antitrust laws; and the holding in an unrelated fraud case against Philips, *Vichi v. Koninklijke Philips Elecs.*, *N.V.*, 85 A.3d 725 (Del. Ch. 2014) ("*Vichi*").

The Special Master emphatically rejected these arguments in turn as "without merit," "ludicrous," "the height of Monday-morning quarterbacking, not sound legal analysis or common sense," and "lack[ing] any factual basis or common sense." (*See* R&R at 57-59.) Undeterred, objectors have objected to the Special Master's findings on all of these issues. (*See* St. John Obj. (Dkt. No. 4439) at 8-13; Clifton Obj. (Dkt. No. 4401 at 7).)

1. Chunghwa

With respect to the value of Chunghwa cooperation and St. John's related judicial estoppel argument, the Special Master found that "IPP counsel persuasively demonstrated that, while it appeared in 2009 that the cooperation might be of great help, circumstances changed as discovery progressed." (R&R at 57.) IPPs also submitted several detailed declarations explaining both the pros and the cons of Chunghwa's information. (*See* Alioto Fee Decl. I (Dkt. No. 4071-1) ¶¶ 102-103 (explaining that Chunghwa was unable to provide information about critical aspects of the conspiracy); Alioto Fee Decl. II (Dkt. No. 4373-1) ¶ 5 (attesting that many Chunghwa meeting reports were not helpful to IPPs' case); IPP Reply (Dkt. No. 4367 at 19) at p.13-14 (explaining that, while Chunghwa's cooperation was indeed valuable in the early litigation, "as the case progressed, it became clear that Chunghwa's information was limited in that it provided virtually no information about large CPTs, the conspiracy in the United States, or its impact in the domestic market—evidence essential to proving the IPP case on the merits.").)

St. John has provided no substantive response. Nor does he explain why, if the value of Chunghwa's cooperation was so great, no other settlements followed until 2013—four years later—

or why the DOJ secured one limited guilty plea and dropped its investigation of *all other defendants* despite Chunghwa's help. (*See* R&R at 57; IPP Reply (Dkt. No. 4367 at 19) at 14 & n.11.)

St. John also objects that IPP Counsel should receive only a *de minimis* fee on the Chunghwa settlement, relying on *In re Cendant Corp PRIDES Litig.*, 243 F.3d 722, 741 (3d. Cir. 2001), which found an "award of 5.7% of the common fund excessive where liability was conceded at the outset"). (Dkt. No. 4439 at 8.) *Cendant*, however, is distinguishable and does not provide a basis to reduce the recommended fee award.

The defendant in *Cendant* conceded its liability several months *before* plaintiffs filed suit, and the case settled almost immediately. (*Id.* at 736.) The risk and cost incurred by class counsel was thus minimal. Moreover, the settlement fund totaled \$341,500,000, which meant the 5.7% fee award amounted to \$19,329,463—a multiplier of **10** on class counsel's lodestar. (*Id.* at 742.) Here, in contrast, Chunghwa's amnesty applicant status was not known at the time IPP Counsel filed their original complaints in November 2007, and the settlement with Chunghwa did not come until April 2009—after extensive work had been done on the case. (*See* Alioto Decl. re Response, ¶ 13; Alioto Fee Decl. I (Dkt. No. 4071-1), ¶¶ 9-13; 26-28.) What's more, IPP Counsel are seeking a multiplier *five times lower* than counsel in *Cendant*. The case does not support St. John's position.

2. Samsung Guilty Plea

The Special Master rejected as "ludicrous" objectors' argument that the \$225 million settlement with Samsung was attributable to Samsung's guilty plea rather than the efforts of IPP Counsel. (*See* R&R at 57-58.) The guilty plea "did nothing to lessen IPP's [sic] challenges to obtain class certification, obtain translate and organize evidence from many foreign defendants, beat back repeated legal motions, and prove pass-through and a credible damage claim." (*Id.* at 57; *see also LCD*, 2013 WL 1365900, at *7-8 (rejecting nearly identical arguments by objectors).)

St. John contends the Special Master's findings are factually unsupported, apparently because the Special Master credited declarations from Lead Counsel. (*See* Dkt. No. 4439 at 10-11.) But the declarations are supported by the record. For example, in their motions for summary judgment, the Hitachi, Panasonic and BMCC Defendants pointed to their lack of prosecution by the

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1	DOJ as evidence of their non-participation in the conspiracy. 35 And IPPs cited to an <i>LCD</i> trial
2	involving Toshiba as an example of a case where a defendant successfully presented evidence of its
3	non-prosecution. (See Alioto Fee Decl. II (Dkt. No. 4373-1), ¶ 4.) Moreover, three years after its
4	guilty plea, Samsung moved for summary judgment on the majority of IPPs' claims arguing that the
5	Defendants' conduct did not have a "direct, substantial and reasonably foreseeable effect on
6	domestic commerce" in satisfaction of the Foreign Trade Antitrust Improvements Act of 1982
7	("FTAIA"). (See Dkt. Nos. 3006; No. 4071-1, ¶ 76 and Ex. 11.)
8	St. John also ignores the fact that Samsung's guilty plea was much more limited than the
9	conspiracy alleged by IPPs. The plea encompassed only one type of CRT (CDTs for monitors) and
10	only \$89 million in sales during a portion of the class period. 36 In contrast, IPPs alleged a worldwid
11	conspiracy involving all CDTs and CPTs sold to all U.S. customers, involving \$17.5 billion in sales
12	(See Dkt. No. 3287-2.) The plea agreement thus stopped far short of establishing Samsung SDI's

liability, the existence of the conspiracy or its U.S. impact. (Dkt. No. 4439 at 9-11.)

More fundamentally, a finding of criminal guilt is not a *fait accompli* for private plaintiffs in an antitrust class action. Even if the government had established Samsung's liability, the existence of the conspiracy and its U.S. impact, IPPs still had to prove antitrust injury and damages on a class-wide basis—which involved serious risk and work. Specifically, if IPPs had failed to win class certification—a very real possibility given recent Supreme Court case law (see Fee Reply, Dkt. No. 4373, at 11-12)—or had failed to show common injury and damages at trial, IPPs' claims against all of the Defendants, including Samsung, would have been dismissed and the recovery would have been zero. *See In re NASDAQ Market Makers Antitrust Litig.*, 187 F.R.D. 465, 475-76 (S.D.N.Y. 1998) ("Antitrust litigation in general, and class action litigation in particular, is unpredictable Indeed, the history of antitrust litigation is replete with cases in which antitrust plaintiffs succeeded

³⁵ See motions for summary judgment by Hitachi (Dkt. No. 2976, at 6); Panasonic (Dkt. No. 2998-3, at 7); BMCC (Dkt. No. 2990, at 6-7); and Dkt. No. 4071-1, ¶¶ 74-79, Ex.11 (listing and describing motions for summary judgment).

³⁶ See U.S. v. Samsung SDI Co., Ltd., No. CR 11-0162 (WHA), (N.D. Cal. Aug. 8, 2011) (Dkt. No. 40-1). See also Fee Reply (Dkt. No. 4373), at 9; IPPs' Motion in Limine No. 17, Dkt. No. 3544, at 2.

at trial on liability, but recovered no damages, or only negligible damages, at trial, or on appeal.")³⁷ Therefore, the Special Master correctly concluded that "the benefit to the common fund attributable to the efforts" of IPP Counsel is the full \$225 million settlement.

3. European Commission Decision and Vichi

The Special Master also found that IPPs "cogently refuted" St. John's claim that the EC Decision and the holding in *Vichi* were the real impetus for the large Samsung and Philips settlements. (*See* R&R at 58; *see further* IPP Fee Reply, at 12-14.) He concluded: "*It is the height of Monday-morning quarterbacking, not sound legal analysis or common sense*, for St. John to suggest that IPP's [sic] result was generated in a meaningful way by [the Chunghwa settlement, the guilty plea and the EC rulings] as opposed to counsel's eight-year sustained efforts." (R&R at 58 (emphasis added).)

St. John objects to the Special Master's findings as "illogical and [] inconsistent with Judge Conti's findings" that the European Decision was "relevant" and "important to this litigation." (Dkt. No. 4439 at 11-13.) He points to paragraphs from the December 2014 EC Decision, and notes that the Commission "made multiple references to agreements and price impacts in the American market." (*Id.* at 11-12.) He does not mention that the EC references to the U.S. market comprised a trivial portion of the 1,181 paragraph decision, which focused fundamentally on Europe.

Further, these paragraphs do not make any *findings* regarding the impact of the conspiracy in the United States, and stop far short of establishing antitrust liability against the Defendants in the United States. They merely recite the content of certain meeting reports (of which IPPs were already aware) that mention North America. (*See* Dkt. No. 4367 at 19, p. 18.) Moreover, as the Special Master noted, the EC Decision was not made public until December 2014—by which time IPPs had developed their entire case on the merits. (R&R at 58.)

Given that the EC Decision makes no findings regarding the conspiracy's impact on the United States market, and given the substantive differences between U.S. and European antitrust laws, it is highly unlikely that the EC Decision would have been admitted at trial. *See* Fee Reply

³⁷ See also Dkt. No. 4071-1, ¶ 93 (describing how two plaintiffs in the LCD litigation went to trial and recovered nothing despite most of the defendants having pled guilty).

(Dkt. No. 4373) at 13-14. It is even less likely that any issue preclusive effect would have been granted. *See, e.g., Syverson v. International Business Machines, Corp.*, 472 F.3d 1072, l078 (9th Cir. 2006) (explaining narrow doctrine of "offensive nonmutual issue preclusion" and requirement that *identical* issue must have been actually litigated and resolved in the prior case). Judge Conti's discussion of the *potential* importance of the EC Decision—before he had an opportunity to review or consider its actual contents—has no bearing on whether the EC Decision would have been admitted or given any preclusive effect at trial.

Lead Counsel can state categorically that the EC ruling was not a material factor in the decision to settle with Philips 34 days later. The case against Philips was the product of years of work by IPPs—and a closed discovery record—not the EC investigation. And the deal was reached only after summary judgment motions were fully briefed and the parties had exchanged trial exhibits and deposition designations, when trial was weeks away. (*See* Alioto Fee Decl., Dkt. No. 4071-1, ¶¶ 73-80; 86-91; 107.) Thus, as the Special Master found, the record confirms that it was the posture of the IPP case and the work of IPP Counsel, not the EC, that spurred the Philips settlement.

4. "Disproportionate" Size of Samsung and Philips Settlements

St. John has also concocted a baseless argument that the Samsung and Philips settlements are "disproportionate" to their market shares in 1997 and 2000, hence, according to St. John, must have been attributable to the guilty plea and EC proceedings.

That is incorrect. Again, the Samsung and Philips settlements stemmed from the work of IPP Counsel in building a particularly strong case against these large Defendants, as the Special Master found. (R&R at 56-59.) Moreover, St. John is factually incorrect about the market shares of these two Defendants during the class period. The evidence shows that "[b]y 2004, Samsung held 29% of the [overall] CRT market and 42% of the CDT market. Philips/LPD's market share was 27% for CRTs and 32% for CDTs." (R&R at 58.) Further, "[t]heir shares of the U.S. market were even higher and lead Counsel believes there was strong evidence of their conspiratorial activity within the U.S. These factors account for the higher settlement amounts." (*Id.*) Ultimately, the Special Master considered extensive record evidence on this issue (market share data and otherwise) and rejected St. John's argument as "lack[ing] any factual basis or common sense." (*Id.* at 59.)

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St. John responds that the Special Master abused his discretion in relying upon Lead
Counsel's declaration. (Dkt. No. 4439 at 14-15.) But the market share facts are the market share
facts, and Lead Counsel's declarations are supported by the record. (See, e.g., Dkt. No. 4367 at 19, p.
16-18 (citing evidence showing that several CRT makers exited the business in the early 2000's and
Samsung and Philips/LPD's increasing market share); IPPs' Fourth Consolidated Amended
Complaint (Dkt. No. 1526), $\P\P$ 59 and 62 (alleging that LPD's market share was 27% and Samsung's
was 34.3%); IPPs' Opp. to Motion to Strike Sur-Reply Evidence (Dkt. No. 4369-16) at 5 (listing
various court filings containing evidence of Samsung's and Philips/LPD's lead roles in the CRT
conspiracy and the strong FTAIA evidence against them).)

St. John misrepresents the Ninth Circuit's opinion in *Wash. Pub. Power Sup. Sys. Lit.*, 19 F.3d 1291, 1302 (9th Cir. 1994) (Dkt. No. 4439 at 15). That case did not "discount[] class counsel's uncontroverted affidavits based on a conflict with the class at the fee stage." *Id.* In fact, the Ninth Circuit expressly relied upon the affidavits in reversing the district court's refusal to apply a risk multiplier to counsel's lodestar. *Id.* The court merely noted that the affidavits might have been uncontroverted simply because "Class Plaintiffs were not represented by counsel in the fee setting proceedings before the district court," and that on remand, the district court had the discretion to request additional evidence. *Id.*

Finally, the differences between the IPP and DPP settlements are easily explained. At the time the DPPs entered into their settlement with Philips (February 2012), they were facing a summary judgment motion that eliminated the vast majority of their claims, and which Special Master Legge recommended the Court grant against them. (*See* Dkt. No. 1221.) In addition, the DPPs' settlement with Philips came before class certification, before merits discovery, and before any depositions had been taken. Similarly, the DPPs faced legal obstacles vis-à-vis Samsung that IPPs did not face, making it questionable whether DPPs would have prevailed on their claims against Samsung.³⁸ The DPPs also entered into their settlement with Samsung before class certification and before a trial date was even set.

³⁸ The DPPs relied upon on the "ownership-and-control exception" to *Illinois Brick* in order to bring direct purchaser claims against the Defendants. Samsung SDI vigorously disputed that it "owned

F. The Special Master Properly Reviewed and Approved IPP Counsel's Expenses

Objectors Scarpulla and Cooper argue that the Special Master erred in failing to address their objections to expenses. But Cooper/Scarpulla never argued that the expense request should not be approved. They merely asked for a complete accounting of the underlying records,³⁹ and to that end, moved to compel production of all expense reports. (*See* Dkt. No. 4191.)

The Special Master denied their motion on the grounds that, "[o]ther than general conclusory statements, [Objectors] point to no impropriety in the claimed expenses." (Dkt. No. 4211, at 4.) He did, however, order IPP Counsel to "produce detailed backup for all expenses" for the Special Master's review (*id.* at 4), and to "recommend to the Special Master . . . a process for enabling him to spot check a representative sampling of expense receipts and other backup for claimed expenses." (*Id.* at 5.) Cooper/Scarpulla never objected to this Order and have therefore waived any objection that *they* should be permitted to do an accounting of IPP Counsel's expenses.

Further, their objection is groundless because the Special Master himself conducted an *in camera* accounting of IPP Counsel's expenses and found that approval is warranted. (*See* R&R at 74-77.). The Special Master did not abuse his discretion in following this procedure for the review of expense records. (*See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(f)(5) ("the court may set aside a master's ruling on a procedural matter only for an abuse of discretion").)

Finally, Cooper/Scarpulla's argument that the Special Master erred in "awarding" \$4,495,878.02 from the Future Expense Fund to Lead Counsel is a non-issue. Lead Counsel has never sought *reimbursement* of these expenses because he has always acknowledged that these funds belong to the Class. 40 Lead Counsel seeks *approval* of those expenses, and the Special Master has recommended to the Court that they be approved. *Id.* at 77. As of the date of the Fee Motion, the amount used from the Future Expense Fund totaled \$4,495,878.02. (*See* Dkt. No. 4071, at 29.)

and controlled" or was owned and controlled by Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., the entity from which DPPs purchased CRT Products.

³⁹ See Dkt. No. 4437 at 13-14; Dkt. No. 4115 at 6-7.

⁴⁰ Lead Counsel, with the Court's approval, established the "Future Expense Fund" to help pay expenses incurred in this litigation. (*See* Dkt. Nos. 1334, 2618, 2944, 3524.) As contemplated when the Court approved the Fund's creation, Lead Counsel used the money to pay "expert fees, reporter fees, translation costs and the like." (R&R at 60.)

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Lead Counsel will seek approval for any additional expenses paid from the Future Expense Fund at a later date. To the extent additional money remains in the Fund at the end of the litigation, the money will become part of the common fund for distribution to the class.

G. The Court Should Deny an Incentive Award to Anthony Gianasca

Mr. Bonsignore improperly requests an incentive award for his client, Anthony Gianasca. Mr. Gianasca has not earned this award, as he has not carried any of the burdens of representing the IPP class over the course of this eight-year litigation. "Incentive awards are payments to class representatives for their service to the class in bringing the lawsuit." Radcliffe v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc., 715 F.3d 1157, 1163 (9th Cir. 2013) (emphasis added); Fraley v. Batman, --- Fed. Appx. ---, 2016 WL 145984, at *2 (9th Cir. Jan. 6, 2016) ("there is no evidence that Kazman personally provided any 'service to the class.'" (quoting *Radcliffe*)).

In addition to incentive awards for the court-appointed class representatives, IPP Counsel seek \$5,000 incentive awards for 15 named plaintiffs, some of whom were deposed and all of whom searched for and produced documents, and worked with their counsel to prepare responses to several sets of interrogatories. Unlike these 15 named plaintiffs, Mr. Gianasca was deposed only as an objector. He was never named on a Consolidated Class Action Complaint and never provided responses to interrogatories or produced documents. In fact, as explained in Section I. B, supra, as a result of Mr. Gianasca's and Mr. Bonsignore's failure to respond to Lead Counsel's repeated requests for even basic information necessary for prosecution of the case, Mr. Gianasca was not named in the Consolidated Amended Complaint. Lead Counsel never heard from him again until he objected to the settlements. (See Dkt. No. 4370-1, ¶ 37.) In short, Mr. Gianasca has not made any contribution to the recovery obtained for the Class.

The Special Master recommended that the Court approve the requested \$15,000 incentive awards for the Court-appointed class representatives, and the \$5,000 awards for the 15 named plaintiffs. (See R&R at 75-76.) Lead Counsel has received a letter dated February 18, 2016 from Frank Warner, one of the former named plaintiffs for whom IPPs have requested a \$5,000 incentive award. In his letter, Mr. Warner objects to the \$5,000 incentive award and asks the Court to award \$100,931.25 to each of the 25 class representatives and the 15 named plaintiffs. Mr. Warner's

objection is untimely and Lead Counsel does not believe there is any support for his request. A copy of Mr. Warner's letter is attached to the Alioto Decl. re: Response as Exhibit E. The Court should adopt the Special Master's recommendation on incentive awards.

IV. THE OBJECTIONS TO "EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS" WITH THE SPECIAL MASTER LACK MERIT

Objectors Cooper and Scarpulla are also wrong to suggest that any improper *ex parte* communications occurred between Lead Counsel and the Special Master. (*See* Dkt. No. 4437 at 14-15.) Each of their examples relates to Lead Counsel's submission of time and expense reports for *in camera* review, in accordance with the Order Re Motion to Compel Lead Counsel's Time-And-Expense Reports (Dkt. No. 4211). The Special Master also ordered Lead Counsel to "recommend a process for enabling him to spot check a representative sampling of expense receipts and other backup for claimed expenses." *Id.* No one objected to this Order. Moreover, the Special Master acted well within the scope of his discretion in ordering that time and expense reports be submitted *in camera*. *See* Order Appointing Special Master (Dkt. No. 4077), ¶ 2 ("The Special Master . . . may review privileged material *in camera*.") It was permissible for Lead Counsel to communicate *ex parte* with the Special Master to the extent necessary to comply with the Order.

CONCLUSION

In sum, the Special Master thoroughly analyzed IPPs' settlement approval motion and fee motion, and properly considered the objections thereto in several rounds of exhaustive briefing and a hearing. As demonstrated above, the Special Master's recommendations on settlement approval, the Plan of Distribution and the fee motion are well-supported, and the objections to the R&R bring nothing new to the table. Therefore, the Court should overrule the objections to the Special Master's January 28, 2016 R&R.

⁴¹ *Id.* at 4 ("The Special Master will insist on the production of detailed backup for all expenses *for his own review.*"); *id.* at 5 ("Lead Counsel shall produce *to the Special Master only* copies of the billing records of all class counsel in whatever format (electronic or hard copy) is most convenient.") (emphasis added).

⁴² See also Dkt. No. 4182 (ordering DPPs to lodge time and expense records with the Court for *in camera* review).

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1	Datada Marah 2, 2016	
1	Dated: March 2, 2016	Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX OF IPP FILINGS IN SUPPORT OF SETTLEMENT APPROVAL AND MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES

DOCUMENT	DOCKET OR EXHIBIT NUMBER
IPP FEE MOTION (September 23, 2015)	NOWBER
1. Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs' Notice of Motion and Motion	4071
for Award of Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Litigation	1071
Expenses, and Incentive Awards to Class Representatives	
2. Declaration of Mario N. Alioto in Support of Indirect	4071-1
Purchaser Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees,	
Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, and Incentive	
Awards	
3. Declaration of Mario N. Alioto in Support of Indirect	4071-2 to 4071-14
Purchaser Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees,	
Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, and Incentive	
Awards, Exhibits 1-13	
4. Compendium of Declarations (Index to Exhibits 1-45)	4073
5. Compendium of IPP Counsel Declarations in Support of	4073-1 to 4073-45
Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Expenses and	l
Incentive Awards	1071 17
6. Declaration of Richard M. Pearl in Support of Indirect	4071-15
Purchaser Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees,	
Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, and Incentive	
Awards 7. Declaration of Richard M. Pearl in Support of Indirect	4071-16
Purchaser Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees,	40/1-16
Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, and Incentive	
Awards, Exhibits A-L	
IPP FINAL APPROVAL MOTION (November 20, 2015)	
1. Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of	4370
Settlements with the Philips, Panasonic, Hitachi, Toshiba,	1370
Samsung SDI, Technicolor, and Technologies Displays	
Americas Defendants; Memorandum in Support Thereof	
2. Declaration of Mario N. Alioto in Support of Indirect	4370-1 (includes exhibits)
Purchaser Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Class	,
Action Settlements with the Philips, Panasonic, Hitachi,	
Toshiba, Samsung SDI, Technicolor, and Technologies	
Displays Americas Defendants, with Exhibits A-G	
3. Additional Declaration of Robert J. Gralewski, Jr. in Support	4370-2 (includes exhibits)
of Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval o	f
Class Action Settlements with Philips, Panasonic, Hitachi,	
Toshiba, Samsung SDI, Thomson, and TDA Defendants,	

DOCUMENT	DOCKET OR EXHIBIT
	NUMBER
with Appendices A-O, Exhibit A	4271 (in also les les assistités
4. Declaration of Joseph M. Fisher Reporting on Class Notice,	4371 (includes exhibits
with Exhibits A-Y	4371-1 to 4371-25) 4372
5. Declaration of Joseph M. Fisher Re: Objections to Notice, with Exhibits A-B	4372
IPP FEE REPLY (November 20, 2015)	
Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs' Reply Re: Motion for Award	4373
of Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses,	
and Incentive Awards to Class Representatives	
2. Supplemental Declaration of Mario N. Alioto in Support of	4373-1 (includes exhibits)
Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs' Motion for Award of	
Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, and	
Incentive Awards to Class Representatives, with Exhibits A-	
В	
3. Supplemental Declaration of Richard M. Pearl in Support of	4373-2
Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs' Reply Re: Motion for Award	
of Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses,	
and Incentive Awards to Class Representatives	
4. Compendium of Declarations in Support of Indirect	4373-3 (includes exhibits)
Plaintiffs' Reply Re: Motion for Award of Attorneys' Fees,	
Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, and Incentive	
Awards with Exhibits A-J	
IPP REPLY (December 23, 2015)	1267 + 10
1. Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs' Reply Re: Final Approval of	4367 at 19
Settlements with the Philips, Panasonic, Hitachi, Toshiba,	
Samsung SDI, Technicolor, and Technologies Displays	
Americas Defendants 2. Declaration of Maria N. Aliata in Support of Indinast	4260 11 (includes exhibits)
2. Declaration of Mario N. Alioto in Support of Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs' Reply Re: Final Approval of	4369-11 (includes exhibits) Filed Under Seal at
Settlements with the Philips, Panasonic, Hitachi, Toshiba,	Dkt. No. 4362-3 to 4362-5
Samsung SDI, Technicolor, and Technologies Displays	DKt. 110: 4302-3 to 4302-3
Americas Defendants, with Exhibits 1-13	
3. Declaration of Joseph M. Fisher Re: Cooper/Scarpulla	4368 at 1 (includes exhibit)
Objection, with Exhibit A	.556 at 1 (metades eximit)
IPP POST-HEARING SUBMISSIONS	
1. January 11, 2016, letter regarding treble damages from Lead	March 2, 2016 Declaration
Counsel to Special Master Quinn	of Mario N. Alioto in
	Support of IPP Response to
	Objections to Jan. 28, 2016
	R&R ("Alioto Decl. re:
	Response"), Ex. B

DOCUMENT	DOCKET OR EXHIBIT NUMBER
2. January 13, 2016 IPP response on the Chunghwa allocation of funds from Lead Counsel to Special Master Quinn	March 2, 2016 Declaration of Mario N. Alioto in Support of IPP Response to Objections to Jan. 28, 2016 R&R ("Alioto Decl. re: Response"), Ex. C
3. January 15, 2016 Declaration of Joseph M. Fisher Reporting on Claims Submissions	4402-1 at 179-182
4. February 5, 2016, letter regarding the Chunghwa allocation of funds from Lead Counsel to Special Master Quinn	March 2, 2016 Declaration of Mario N. Alioto in Support of IPP Response to Objections to Jan. 28, 2016 R&R ("Alioto Decl. re: Response"), Ex. D
IPP RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS TO R&R	
1. Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs' Response to Objections to January 28, 2016 R&R	Filed March 2, 2016
2. Declaration of Mario N. Alioto in Support of Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs' Response to Objections to January 28, 2016 R&R, and Exhibits A-E	Filed March 2, 2016
3. Request for Judicial Notice	Filed March 2, 2016
Declaration of Lauren C. Capurro in support of Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs' Request for Judicial Notice and Exhibit A	Filed March 2, 2016
5. Proposed Order Granting Request for Judicial Notice	Filed March 2, 2016